

A  
RELATION  
Of the Late

Wicked Contrivance

Of STEPHEN BLACKHEAD and  
ROBERT YOUNG, against the Lives  
of several Persons, by Forging an *Association* under their Hands.

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Written by the Bishop of Rochester.

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*In Two Parts :*

The First Part being a Relation of what passed  
at the Three Examinations of the said Bishop  
by a Committee of Lords of the *Privy-Council*.

The Second being an ACCOUNT of the Two  
above-mentioned Authors of the Forgery.

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THE SECOND EDITION.

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*In the SAVOY:*

Printed by EDWARD JONES. MDCXCIII.

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# RELATION

Of the Late

Confessed Counterfeiter

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ROBERT TOUNG, against the Lives  
of several Persons, by Forging an Asse-  
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Written by the Bishop of Rochester.

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THE SECOND EDITION.

In the Year 1707.

Printed by EDWARD JOHNSON, M.D.

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A RELATION of  
the late Wicked Contrivance of *Stephen Blackhead* and *Robert Young* against the Lives of several Persons, by Forging an Association under their Hands, &c.

**I** Think it becomes me, as a Duty which I owe to my Country, and to the Character I have the Undeserved Honour to bear in the Church, to give the World some Account, how my Innocency was clear'd from the late Wicked Contrivance against me: In hopes that this Example of a false Plot so manifestly detected, may be, in some sort, beneficial to the whole

Nation on the like Occasions for the future : However, that the Enemies of the Church may have no Reason to cast any Blemish upon it, from the least Suspicion of my Guilt : And that this faithful Memorial may remain as a poor Monument of my own Gratitude to Almighty GOD, to whose immediate Protection I cannot but attribute this extraordinary Preservation.

Perhaps my Reader, at first view, will look on this Relation, as too much loaded with small Particularities ; such as he may judge scarce worth my remembring, or his knowing : But he will pardon me, if I presume that nothing in this whole Affair ought to appear little, or inconsiderable, to me at least, who was so nearly concern'd in the Event of it.

I have therefore made no scruple to discharge my weak Memory of all it could retain of this Matter; Nor have I willingly omitted any Thing, though never so minute, which, I thought, might serve to fix this Wonderful Mercy of GOD the more on my own Mind; or did any way conduce to the saving of divers other innocent Persons Lives, as well as mine.

I cannot indeed promise, that I shall accurately repeat every Word or Expression, that fell from



from all the Parties here mentioned : Or that I shall put all down in the very same Order, as it was spoken, having not had the Opportunity to take Notes of every thing as it pass'd. But this I will say ; If I shall not be able to relate all the Truth, yet I will omit nothing that is Material: I will as carefully as if I were upon my Oath, give in all the Truth I can remember, and nothing but the Truth.

What I Write, I intend shall consist of Two Parts : The First, To be a Narrative of the plain Matter of Fact, from my first being taken into Custody, *May* the 7th, to the time of my last Dismission, *June* the 13th. The Second, To contain some Account of the Two Perjur'd Wretches, that were pleas'd, for what Reasons they know best, to bring me into this Danger.

For the Truth of the Substance of what I shall recollect on the first Head, I am bold to appeal to the Memories of those Honourable LORDS of the *Council*, by whom I was thrice Examind. And touching the second, I have by me so many Original Papers, or Copies of unquestionable Authority, (which I am ready to shew any Worthy Persons, who shall desire the Satisfaction) as are abundantly sufficient to justify all that

that I shall think fit for me to say against *Black-head* and *Young* ; especially against *Young*.

It was on *Saturday* the seventh of *May* of this present Year 1692. in the Evening, as I was walking in the Orchard at *Bromeley*, Meditating on something I design'd to Preach the next Day ; that I saw a Coach and four Horses stop at the outer Gate, out of which two Persons alighted. Immediately I went towards them, believing they were some of my Friends, coming to give me a Visit. By that time I was got to the Gate, they were enter'd into the Hall : But seeing me hastning to them, they turn'd, and met me about the middle of the Court. The Chief of them perceiving me to look wistly on them, as being altogether Strangers to me, said, *My Lord, Perhaps you do not know me. My Name is Dyve ; I am Clerk of the Council, and here is one of the King's Messengers. I am sorry I am sent on this Errand. But I am come to Arrest you upon suspicion of High Treason.*

Sir, said I, I suppose you have a Warrant for for so doing ; I pray let me see it. He shew'd it me. I read it ; and the first Name I lighted on being





them. They read several of the Texts, and left them where they found them. But in one Corner of a Press, which was half open, they met with a great Number of Letters fil'd up. I assur'd them they were only Matters of usual Friendly Correspondence, and most of them were of last Years date. Mr. Dyve looking on some of them, found them to be so ; and said, *If he had time to view them all, he might, perhaps, see Reason to leave them behind : But being expresly Com-manded to bring all Letters, he must carry them with him.* I left him to do as he pleased ; so they seal'd them up.

Then they went into my Bed-Chamber, and the Closets adjoyning, doing as they had done in my Study, feeling about the Bed and Hangings, and knocking the Wainscot in several places, to see if there were any private Hole, or secret Conveyance.

After that they came down Stairs, and search'd the Parlour and Drawing-Room on that side of the House with the like exactness. In all these Rooms I observed they very carefully pryed into every part of the Chimneys ; the Messenger putting his Hand  
into

into every Flower-Pot : Which I then somewhat smiled at : But since I found he had but too much Reason so to do.

When they had done searching in all those Rooms, and in the Hall, as they were going out, and had taken with them what Papers they thought fit ; they carried me away in the Coach that brought them. By the Way we met my Servant Mr. *Moor* coming from *London*. I call'd out to him, Have you any Letters for me ? He gave me three or four, which I deliver'd to Mr. *Dyve* to open: Who found nothing in them, but Matters of private Concernment, or ordinary News. And so, between Ten and Eleven at Night, we arrived at *Whitehal*, and I was brought to my Lord *Nottingham*, whom I found alone in his Office.

My Lord, said I, I am come upon your Warrant ; but certainly there must be some great Mistake, or black Villany in this Business. For I declare, as in the Presence of God, I am absolutely free from any just Accusation relating to the Government. His Lordship told me, *He himself was much surprized when he heard my Name mentioned.*

I intreated him, I might be Examined that Night, if any Witnesses could be produced against me. He said, *That could not possibly be, because the Lords, who had the Management of such Affairs, were separated, and gone Home: But that I was to appear before them the next Day; and in the mean time, all the Civility should be shewn me, that could be expected by a Man in my Condition.*

My Lord, said I, I hope, it being so very late, you will suffer me to lie at my own House at *Westminster*. He reply'd, *You shall do so; But you must have a Guard of Soldiers and a Messenger with you.* A Guard of Soldiers, said I, My Lord, methinks is not so necessary to secure one of my Profession; I should rather offer, that I may have two or more Messengers to keep me, tho' that may put me to greater Charges. My Lord, said he, *I, for my own part, would be glad, if I might take your Parole: But I must do what I may answer to others; and therefore I pray be Content.*

At this I acquiesced; only adding, My Lord, here are divers Papers brought up  
with



with me, which, upon my Credit, are but of common Importance ; yet, because they are most of them private Talk among Friends ; there may be some Expressions, which no Man, if it were his own Case, would be willing to have divulg'd ; and therefore I desire your Lordship will take Care they may not be shewn to the Prejudice of any. He answer'd, *You have to do with Men of Honour; And you shall have no Occasion to complain upon that Account.*

And so I was convey'd Home to *Westminster* by Mr. Dyve, and Mr. Knight the Messenger, in the Coach with Me, and a Guard attending on each side. After we came to the Deanery, Mr. Dyve having diligently survey'd my Lodgings, and the Avenues to them, left me about Midnight, with a strict Charge to the Messenger and Soldiers, not to give me any unnecessary Disturbance ; but to watch carefully at my Bed-Chamber-Door till further Orders ; which they did.

The next Day, being *Sunday*, May the 8th, Mr. Dyve came again to me about Noon, to acquaint me, That I was to attend the Committe of the Council that Evening by  
Six.

Six o'the Clock. *And, fays he, My Lord, I suppose you have here also at Westminster a Room where you keep the rest of your Books and Papers. I told him, I had. Then, said he, I have Commission to search there likewise ; particularly in your Cabinet. I shewed him my Library, and gave him the Keys. He opened all the Presses of Books, and viewed particularly every Shelf, and examined every Drawer in the Cabinet : But finding nothing there of a late date, or that might afford any the least shadow of a Trayterous Correspondence, he went away without removing any one Paper thence.*

At the time appointed I was brought by the Messenger and Guard to *Whitehal*, where a select Number of the Lords of the Council were assembled at My Lord *Nottingham's* Lodgings. There were present, as I remember, the Earl of *Devonshire* Lord Steward, the Earl of *Dorset* Lord Chamberlain, the Earl of *Nottingham* Secretary of State, the Earl of *Rochester*, the Earl of *Portland*, the Lord *Sydney* Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, and Sir *Edward Seymour*.

When

When I was enter'd the Room, and come to the end of the Table, my Lord *Nottingham* began. But now, for the greater perspicuity of the whole Proceedings, and to avoid the too frequent repetition of, *said I*, or *said such an one*, or *said they*, I will henceforth give all the Questions and Answers, and the rest of the Discourses, in the Name of every Person, as they spoke, and by way of Dialogue.

*Earl of Nottingham.* My Lord, You cannot but think it must be some extraordinary Occasion, which has forc'd us to send for you hither in this manner.

*Bishop of Rochester.* My Lord, I submit to the Necessities of State, in such a Time of Jealousie, and Danger, as this is.

*Earl of N.* My Lord, I am to ask you some Questions, to which we desire your plain and true Answers.

*Bishop of R.* My Lords, I assure you, mine shall be such; as, I hope, I have been always taken for a Man of Simplicity and Sincerity.

Earl



Earl of N. *Have you Composed a Declaration for the present intended Descent of the Late King James into England ?*

Bishop of R. I call GOD to Witness, I have not.

Earl of N. *Did you ever draw up any Heads, or Materials for such a Declaration ?*

Bishop of R. Upon the same Solemn Asseveration, I never did.

Earl of N. *Were you ever solicited, or apply'd to by any Person, for the Undertaking such a Work ?*

Bishop of R. I never was.

Earl of N. *Do you hold any Correspondencies abroad in France ?*

Bishop of R. I do not hold any.

Earl of N. *Have you ever sign'd any Association for Restoring the Late King James ?*

Bishop of R. I never sign'd any.

Earl of N. *Do you know of any such Association ? Or any Persons that have subscribed one ?*

Bishop of R. Upon the Word of a Christian, and a Bishop, I know of no such thing; nor of any Person, who has subscribed any Paper of that Nature.

Sir

Sir Edward Seymour. *My Lord Bishop of Rochester, We have examined the Papers that were seized in your Closet at Bromley. We find nothing in them, but Matters of ordinary and innocent Conversation among Friends; only we have one Scruple, That there are few or no Letters among them written since Lady-day last.*

*Bishop of R.* Sir, I suppose there may be some of a Date since that Time in the Bundles. If I had preserv'd more, they would have been of the same Nature with the rest that you have, that is, concerning common Intelligence, and the Talk of the Town; not any Secrets of State, or against the Government. My Lords, I hold no Correspondencies of that kind. When I am in the Country, I desire some Friend or other here to let me know how the World goes, that I may inform my self, and the Neighbouring Gentlemen, of the Truth of Things, and prevent the spreading of false News: And afterwards I file up such Letters according to their Dates, (as you may perceive I did these,) that at any time I may have a present Recourse to them to refresh my Memory in any past Transaction.

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My Lords, Those are all I thought worth keeping of this kind these last two Years. And I hope the Clerk of the Council has done me the Justice to acquaint your Lordships, how I was apprehended out of my House; and how narrowly I my self, and my Study, and Lodging-Chamber, and other Rooms, were search'd : So that it was impossible for me to have suppress'd or smother'd any one Writing from you. And really I believe there was not a Note, or least Scrip of Paper of any Consequence in my Possession, but they had a view of it.

Earl of Devonshire. *But, my Lord, it is probable a Man of your Interest, and Acquaintance, must have received more Letters since, than are here to be found. We see here are many concerning Affairs that pass'd just before that time.*

Bishop of R. My Lords, A little before the Conclusion of the last Session of Parliament, I obtain'd Leave of the House of Lords to retire into the Country, for the Recovery of my Health. During my abode there, as long as the Parliament continued, I was somewhat curious to learn what pass'd in  
both



both Houses, and therefore, as your Lordship has observ'd, Letters came thicker to me about that time. But when the Parliament was up, very little hapning that was remarkable in that Interval, I was not so mindful to preserve the Letters that came to me, whilst all Things, both abroad and at home, were rather in Preparation than Action.

Besides that, since the Time your Lordships speak of, I was twice or thrice in Town for several days together; once especially, upon a publick Occasion, the Annual Election of *Westminster* School; which detain'd me here about a Week. And these are the True Reasons why you find so few Letters to me since the Date of Time your Lordships have mentioned.

Earl of *N.* *Will it please your Lordships to ask the Bishop of Rochester any more Questions?*

They being all silent, I said, My Lords, I cannot imagine how it comes to pass, that I should be thus suspected to be Guilty of any Contrivance against the Government; I think I may appeal to all that know me, I am sure I may to all my Neighbours in

the Country where I live, that there has no Man submitted to it more peaceably and quietly than I have done ever since the Revolution; and I must own, I did it both upon a Principle of Conscience and Gratitude. Of Conscience, Because I cannot see how the *Church of England* and the *whole Protestant Religion* can be Preserv'd but upon this Constitution; since an Invasion from *France* cannot but be destructive to Both. And of Gratitude, Because, as you all know, I happen'd to be, in the late Reign, engag'd in an Affair, which since I have been taught was Illegal. And though, I may say, I stopp'd betimes, and did no great hurt, but hindred, as much as I could, whilst I Acted; yet I Acted so long, that I might have expected to be severely punish'd for what I did. But the King's and Queen's Part, in the General Pardon, was so Gracious and Benign, in making it their own Act, and not excluding me out of it, that Their Majesties have thereby laid upon me an Obligation never to be forgotten.

Upon this I was bid to withdraw; and about an Hour after, the same Clerk of the Council

Council was sent out to tell me, *The Lords had Order'd I should return to my own House, and be under the same Confinement as before, of a Messenger, and a Guard of Soldiers: And there I should shortly hear what their Lordships would determine concerning me.* He likewise told the Messenger, and the Guards, *That he had a strict Command to them to use me with all Respect; only to take Care, that I should be safely kept, and forth-coming.* Nor indeed had I any thing to object against their Behaviour: For, as Mr. Dyve demean'd himself always to me like a Gentleman, and the Messenger was very Civil, so the Soldiers themselves were as easie and quiet to the rest of my Family, as if they had been a part of it.

The same Evening Mr. Dyve came home to me, and brought me all my Papers, telling me, *That the Lords had heard him read them over; and, having no Exception against them, had sent him to return them all safe to me again.*

Thus guarded, I continued from that Day, till the 18th of May, under the Custody of a Messenger and of four Centinels, who



who watched Day and Night, and were relieved every Eight and forty Hours.

But then, having heard nothing in the mean time from the Lords, I wrote this Letter to the Earl of *Nottingham*.

*My Lord,*

**A**S I have all this while, according to my Duty to Their Majesties Government, with Patience and Humility, submitted to my Confinement under a Guard of Soldiers, and a Messenger ; so now, fearing that my longer Silence may be interpreted as a Mistrust of my Innocency, I think it becomes me to make this Application to your Lordship, earnestly intreating you to represent my Condition and Request to the most Honourable Board, where I was examined. I entirely rely on their Justice and Honor, that, if they find nothing real against me (as God knows, I am conscious to my self they cannot) they would be pleased to order my Enlargement. I am forced to be the more importunate with your Lordship in this Business, because it is very well known, in what  
a dan-

a dangerous Condition of Health I went out of Town towards the latter end of the Session of Parliament: And I find my Distemper very much increased by this close Restraint, in a Time when I was just entring upon a Course of Physick in the Country.

*My Lord,*

*I am your Lordship's most Humble,*

*and most Obedient Servant,*

May 18. *Westm.*

Tho. Roffen.

To the Right Honorable the  
Earl of *Nottingham*, Principal  
Secretary of State.

This Letter was read in the Cabinet-Council that Day, and it had the desired effect; for thereupon I was ordered to be discharged that Evening; which accordingly was  
done

done about ten at Night, by Mr. *Shorter*, a Messenger of the Chamber, coming to my House, and dismissing the Messenger, and taking off the Guard.

The next Morning, being *May* 19th, to prevent any Concourse or Congratulations, usual upon such Occasions, I retired early to *Bromley*, where I remained quiet till *June* the 9th, little dreaming of a worse Mischief still hanging over my Head.

But that Day, being *Thursday*, as I was upon the Road, coming to *Westminster*, to the Meeting of Dr. *Busby's* Preachers, who assemble once a Term at my House there, I was stopt by a Gentleman that brought me this Letter from my Lord *Nottingham*.

*White-*



*White-Hall, June 8. 92.*

My Lord,

**I** Must desire your Lordship to be at my Office on Friday Morning by Ten of the Clock.

I am Your Lordship's

Most Humble Servant,

*Nottingham.*

*For the Right Reverend, the  
Lord Bishop of Rochester,  
at Bromley.*

I asked the Bearer, whether he had any farther Orders concerning me. He answered, No : But was forthwith to return. I desired him to acquaint his Lord, That I was now going to Town upon other Business, but that I would presently wait on him at *White-Hall*. Accordingly from *Lambeth* I went to his Office. When my Lord came to me, I told him, that having met with his Lordship's

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ship's Letter accidentally in my Way to *Westminster*, I thought it best to come presently to know his Pleasure.

Earl of N. My Lord, *There is a Mistake, I gave you Notice to be here to morrow Morning : And that is the Time you are appointed to appear before the Committee of the Council.*

Bishop of R. However, My Lord, being in Town occasionally, I thought it became me to present my self to you as soon as I could. And I now make it my Request, If your Lordships have any thing farther to say to me, I may be convened before you this Day.

Earl of N. I fear you cannot be so, for there is much Business to be this Afternoon, both at the Great Council, and the Committee : But I will send you Word to the Deanery, if you can be called this Evening. In the mean time you have your full Liberty to go where you please.

Thus I went home ; but having no Notice from my Lord that Night, the next Day, being *June* the 10th, about Ten of the Clock, I came to his Lordship's Office ; where were

met

met the same Lords as before ; only, I think, the Earl of *Portland* was not there, and the Earl of *Pembroke*, Lord Privy-Seal, was.

When I was call'd in, besides the Privy Councillors that sat about the Table, there was standing against the Wall a very ill-favour'd Man, who afterwards prov'd to be *Blackhead* ; with whom I strait perceiv'd I was sent for to be confronted.

For, as soon as I was in the Room, my Lord *Nottingham* said, *My Lord, Do you know that Person ?*

*Bishop of R.* My Lord, I have seen this Man's Face, but I cannot immediately recollect where.

Earl of N. *I pray view him well. Has he never brought you any Letters from one Mr. Young ?*

*Bishop of R.* I do call to mind, he has brought me a Letter. I cannot in a moment remember from whom it was.

Earl of N. *He says, it was from one Young.*

*Bishop of R.* I think it was at my House at *Bromley*, that he delivered it me ; but I ve-



rily believe, it was not from any of the Name of *Young*.

*Blackhead*. *I was with the Bishop of Rochester at Bromley : I brought him a Letter from Mr. Young, and I received an Answer to Mr. Young back again from the Bishop.*

Thus far, during the beginning of this Examination, I stood with my Face against the Window, and my Eyes being so very tender and feeble as they are, I had not a perfect View of *Blackhead* ; but he so confidently affirming, That he had of late carried Letters between me and one *Young*, I changed my Station, and got the Light on my Back ; and then immediately, having a true Sight of his very remarkable Countenance and Habit, and whole Person, and being also much assisted by his Voice, which is very loud and rude ; I did (by God's Blessing) perfectly call him to mind ; and said, Now, my Lords, by the Advantage of this Light, I do exactly remember this Fellow, and part of his Business with me at *Bromley*. What he says of *Young* cannot be true. I know not for what purpose he affirms this ; but upon my Re-puta-

putation, it is utterly false, that he ever brought me a Letter from one *Young*.

Earl of N. My Lord, He says particularly, *it was upon a Fast-day*.

Bishop of R. My Lords, I do remember this Fellow was with me at *Bromley* on a Fast-Day: By the same Token, I told him, he should stay till after Evening-Prayers, and must expect only a fasting kind of Meal. But then I would return an Answer to his Business.

Blackhead. *It was upon a Fast-day. I did eat with the Bishop's Servants; and I received an Answer from his own Hand, to the Letter, I brought him from Mr. Young.*

Bishop of R. My Lords, This that he says of *Young*, is a wicked Lye: All my Correspondencies are so innocent (as I hope your Lordships can testifie) that, if I had received a Letter from any Mr. *Young*, I should have no reason so positively to deny it. I beseech you, examine this Fellow thoroughly, and I doubt not but you will discover some impudent Knavery. I stand to it; I am sure there is no Person whose Name is *Young*, with whom I have of late Years maintained any Intercourse by Letters.

Earl

Earl of Devonshire. My Lord, is there no Person of the Name of Young, a Clergy-man, with whom you are acquainted?

Bishop of R. Oh! My Lord, There are two excellent Persons of the Name of Young, both Clergy-men, to whom I have the good Fortune to be very well known: The one was your Brother Offery's Chaplain, and is now Prebendary of Winchester; the other was Canon of Windsor, when I was a Member of that Church, and is there still. But, I suppose, neither of these are the Youngs, whose Correspondence this Man objects to me. I should take it for an Honor to Correspond with them. But in Truth it has so happen'd, that I have neither written too, nor receiv'd one Letter from either of them these many Years, to the best of my Knowledge.

Blackhead. The Bishop, if he please, may remember it was Robert Young, from whom I brought him a Letter.

Earl of N. How long ago say you, it was?

Blackhead. It was about two Months ago?

Bishop of R. I have indeed, my Lords, some obscure Remembrance, that some Years ago, there was one writ to me out of  
Newgate,



*Newgate, under the Name of Robert Young, pretending to be a Clergy-Man ; and I recal something of the Contents of his Letter. It was to tell me, That He and his Wife lay in Prison there upon a False Accusation of which he hoped they should be speedily clear'd. In the mean time, he desired me to recollect, that he had Officiated some Weeks for the Chaplain at Bromley-College, and had Preach'd once or twice in the Parish-Church there. He intreated me to give him a Certificate of this, because it would stand him in much stead in order to his Justification : And withal, that I would send him something out of my Charity, for his and his Wifes Relief in their great Distress.*

This, my Lords, I dare say, was the whole Substance of that Letter, and this was two or three Years ago at least.

To that Letter I am sure I made no Reply in Writing. Only having not the least Remembrance of him my self, I enquir'd in the Neighborhood, and among the Widows in the Colledge ; intending to have sent him some Alms suitable to his Condition and mine, had I found him worthy.

But

But upon enquiry, I received from all Hands, so very ill a Character both of this *Young*, and his Wife, that I resolv'd to give him no Answer at all ; and I have never heard any thing more of him to this Day.

But now, I beseech your Lordships, to give me leave to speak to this Person myself : And they intimating I should do as I thought best, I said to him ;

I Conjure you, in the Presence of these Noble Lords, and especially of the Great LORD of Heaven and Earth, that you will declare the Truth of what I am going to ask you.

When you came to my House at *Bromley*, upon a Fast-Day it was, I think the first Fast of this Year ? Did not you desire to speak with me, as having a Letter for me ? When I came to you into my Hall, Did not you first kneel down, and ask me Blessing ? Did you not then deliver me a Letter, affirming it was from a Country-Minister, a Doctor of Divinity ? Did not you tell me, You were his Servant, or Bayliff ? And that your Master had sent you on purpose, many Miles,  
to

to receive an Answer your self to that Letter from my own Hand ?

Blackhead. *I never brought a Letter to the Bishop of Rochester from a Country Minister ; I know no such Doctor of Divinity : Nor ever was Servant to any : I only brought a Letter to the Bishop from Mr. Young.*

Bishop of R. My Lords, What I say is most certainly true. This Man had never any other Business with me, but in relation to that Letter, pretended by him, (for now I find it was but a pretence) to be written to me by an Eminent Country-Divine in Buckinghamshire, a Person of a Considerable Estate, as he told me. My Lords, I cannot yet call to Mind the Doctor's Name : But the Business of the Letter I am in great part Master of, and it was to this purpose :

That there was a Person, (naming him,) who had apply'd to him to be his Curate ; but that he had Reason to suspect he had Counterfeited my Hand and Seal for Holy Orders : Therefore he desired me to send him Word under my own Hand by the Bearer his Man, Whether I had Ordain'd such a One, in such, or such Years : That if I had,

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he



he would Encourage, and Entertain him ; if not, he would take care he should be punish'd for his Forgery.

Now, My Lords, upon the receipt of so Friendly a Letter, by this very Messenger, I bid him stay a little, and I would give his Master Satisfaction out of my Books, Whether I had Ordain'd any Man of that Name ; which I thought I had not. Accordingly my Secretary, and I, did severally turn over all my Papers relating to such Affairs, as carefully as we could ; and finding no such Mans Name in them ; in which we could not be easily deceiv'd, because I keep Methodically (as no doubt every Bishop does) all Recommendations, Subscriptions, Testimonials, and Titles of those I admit into Orders ; I wrote the supposed Author of the Letter, as civil an Answer as his seemed to deserve.

That I was extreamly pleased, and thankful, that a meer Stranger to me should be so careful of my Reputation : That my Secretary, and I, had diligently examin'd all the Books, where such Things are Recorded : And I could assure him, I never had Ordain'd

dain'd any such Person either Priest or Deacon, within the space limited in his Letter, or at any other time : That I should look upon it as a signal Service done to the Church in general, and a special Favour to me in particular ; if he would, as he promised, cause the Counterfeit to be apprehended, so that the Course of Law might pass upon him.

This Letter, my Lords, I all Written with my own Hand, I delivered to the Person here present : And he went away with it, asking me Blessing again upon his Knees, and promising I should speedily be made acquainted with the Success.

Earl of Devonshire. I pray, My Lord, how was the Letter Superscrib'd you sent back by this Man?

Bishop of R. My Lord, It was to the same Person, with the same Superscription as he Subscrib'd himself, and directed to the same Place, where he said he was Minister ; tho' the Name of Place or Minister I cannot yet recover. But let that Letter of mine be produced, and it will put an end to this whole Controversie.

Blackhead. *The Letter I receiv'd from the Bishop, was Superscrib'd to Mr. Young, and to no other.*

*Bishop of R.* My Lords, This is a Horrid Falshood. I well remember now, this Fellow was at my House a second time, some Weeks after the first. When he came, I was in the Garden with some Gentlemen my Neighbours; where, first asking my Blessing, he told me, *His Master the Doctor had taken up the Person who had Forg'd my Orders: That the Man stood upon his Vindication; but that his Master was bringing him up to London; and then I should hear farther from him: Adding, That his Master was a Man of such a Spirit, and such a plentiful Estate, that whenever he suspected a Man to be a Rogue, or a Cheat, he would spare no Pains to discover him, nor think any Cost too much to get him punish'd.* These, my Lords, I well remember were the Knave's very Words: And I hope your Lordships will likewise deal with him in the same manner. I took this second Message still more kindly, and order'd my Servants to entertain the Messenger very civilly.

Black-



Blackhead. *I brought no such Message. All my Business with the Bishop was from Mr. Young, which I suppose was another Nature.*

Bishop of R. What I say is so true, that I am confident several of my Servants do remember the Particulars. For this Man stuck not to Declare his Business before them all; very much Magnifying his Master, and his House-keeping, and Vapouring what an Example he would make of the Counterfeit Priest, without putting me to any Trouble, or Expence.

Earl of Devonshire. *Has your Lordship none of those Servants near at hand?*

Bishop of R. My Lord, some of them are in Town; and one, my Secretary, Mr. Moore, by an accidental good Fortune, came hither with me: He was without, when I was called in. I doubt not but he will satisfy your Lordships what was this Man's Errand to me: He is a young Man, of Great Honesty, and, I believe, would not tell a Lye to save my Life: I am sure I would not have him.

Whilst

Whilst they were calling in Mr. Moore, I added, My Lords, I appeal to the Great God of Heaven to judge between me and this Wretch, touching the Truth or Falshood of what we say, and to deal with us both accordingly at the last Day of Judgment : And I dare also appeal to your Lordships to judge between us by what appears to you ; For did you ever see greater Villany, and Consciouness of Guilt in any Man's Countenance than in his?

By this time Mr. Moore being come in, I said, Moore, Apply your self to My Lord Nottingham. I charge you, Do not, for any Consideration of me, speak any Thing which you cannot justifie for Truth.

Earl of N. Mr. Moore, *Do you know that Person there ?* Pointing to Blackhead.

Mr. Moore. My Lord, *I do know him so far, that I have seen him once or twice at my Lord's House at Bromley.*

Earl of N. *What Business had he at Bromley ?*

Mr. M. *The first Time he brought a Letter to my Lord.*

Earl

Earl of N. *From whom?*

Mr. M. My Lord, It was from a Country Minister in Buckinghamshire, a Doctor of Divinity, as he wrote himself, his Name was Hooke.

Bishop of R. My Lords, I now very well remember that was the Name, *Hooke*, or something very near it. There may be the Difference of a Letter: I will not stand upon that, or can it be expected I, or my Servant, should be positive as to every Letter of a Name, in so sudden a Question.

Earl of N. Mr. Moore, *What was the Business of that Letter?*

Mr. M. My Lord, it was concerning one that offered himself to be the Doctor's Curate, whom he suspected to have Counterfeited my Lord's Letters of Orders. The Doctor desired my Lord to look into his Books, whether he had Ordain'd any such Person. My Lord and I did thereupon search all the Places where the Memorials of such Affairs are kept, and we found no such Name; and so my Lord himself wrote back to the Doctor, by this very Man that stands here.

Earl



Earl of N. Mr. Moore, Will you take your Oath of all this ?

Mr. M. I am ready to take my Oath of it, if you please to give it me.

Earl of N. What say you, Blackhead ? You see here is young Man, the Bishop's Secretary, comes in by chance, and confirms punctually what the Bishop had said before, concerning your Message to his Lord : And he offers to take his Oath of it. If you did bring a Letter from one Doctor Hooke, Why do you not confess it ? It can do you no hurt.

Blackhead. I know of no such Divine as Doctor Hooke ; nor any Thing concerning one that Counterfeited the Bishop's Orders. The Letter I brought was from Mr. Young.

M. M. My Lord, This Fellow cannot but know, that what he says is shamefully false ; I assure you, I have the Original Letter at Home to produce : And doubt not but divers of my Lords Servants remember him and his Business as well as I do : For he was a second Time at Bromley some Weeks after.

Earl of N. What was his Business then ?

Mr.

Mr. M. He said, He came to acquaint my Lord, That his Master, Doctor Hooke, had seized on the Person who had forg'd his Orders. My Lord ask'd him, Whether he had also seiz'd the False Instrument? And if he had, desired it might be transmitted to him. This Man answered, He believed his Master had got it: That he was coming up to London, and bringing the Cheat with him; and had been there sooner, had he not sprain'd or hurt his Leg: But when he was come, the Doctor would give my Lord Notice, or himself wait upon him. My Lord was much pleased with this second Message; and gave Orders to have the Bringer of it well used. He was so; and freely discoursed with the Butler, and the other Servants, touching his Business there. So that I am verily perswaded several of them remember all these Circumstances of it, and perhaps more than I do.

Upon this, Blackhead, being again urg'd by the Lords with so plain a Testimony, perfectly agreeing with what I had said; and he still persevering obstinately to deny every part of it; I and Mr. Moore were ordered to withdraw, Blackhead staying behind

As I was going out, I said, My Lords, I cannot comprehend to what purpose this Fellow persists in this Lye; I am sure he can never prove that I have injured the Government, in Word, or Deed, or Writing. Then I could not but again observe to the Lords, what visible Marks of Falshood and Treachery there were in *Blackhead's* Face. For, indeed all the while he look'd as if he would have sunk into the Ground: Tho', as I was told afterwards, before I came into the Room he had appear'd very brisk, and bold, and full of Talk. But, upon my first coming in, his Complexion, which was naturally very fallow, turn'd much paler and darker; and he was almost Speechless, saying nothing to any purpose, more than what he thought was necessary to keep him firm to the main Lye, That he had brought me a Letter from one *Young*, and no other.

But after my being withdrawn, about half an Hour, I was call'd in again, and *Blackhead* sent forth.

Earl of N. *Now, my Lord, the Business is out, the Fellow has confess'd he brought the Letter*



ter to you, *Written not in the Name of Young, but as from one Doctor Hookes, Hookes was the Name, not Hooke, your Lordship was in the right, in saying, you would not stand upon a Letter.*

*Bishop of R.* My Lords, I could not trust my Memory so far as to a Letter. But one Thing I was sure of, That was the only Letter this Rascal ever brought me; and it was not from any whose Name was Young.

*Earl of N.* Well, that Business is over, he has confess'd it; and now, my Lord, Pray take a Chair and sit down.

*Earl of Devonshire.* Pray, my Lord, sit down.

*Bishop of R.* No, my Lords, I desire you to excuse me.

*Earl of N.* My Lord, we have some few Questions to ask you, and therefore pray repose your self.

*Bishop of R.* If you please to permit me, I had rather answer what your Lordships have farther to say, standing thus as I am at the Table.

Earl of N. *Then, my Lord, we shall ask you. Have you ever written to the Earl of Marleborough within these Three Months?*

*Bishop of R.* I think I may safely affirm, I never writ to my Lord Marleborough in my Life : But I am certain, and upon the Faith of a Bishop, I declare, I have not written one Word to him these Three Months.

Earl of N. *Have you received any Letter from my Lord Marleborough within these three Months?*

*Bishop of R.* I protest solemnly, I have not received any.

Earl of N. *Have you received any Written or Printed Papers from my Lord Marleborough within that space of Time?*

*Bishop of R.* As in the Presence of God, I declare, I have not. My Lords, I have had some Acquaintance with my Lord Marleborough, both in King James's Court, and in the Parliaments since; but I cannot call to mind, that ever I wrote to him, or he to me.

Earl of N. *Then, I think, my Lords, we have nothing more to do, but to wish my Lord Bishop a good Journey to Bromley.*

With

With that they all rose up, and saluted me, testifying their great Satisfaction, that I had so well cleared my self, and confounded my Adversary. More especially Two Noble Lords of the Company, to whom, I said I would now particularly Appeal, gave me an Ample Testimony of their belief of my Innocency in this Accusation, and of my Dutiful Disposition to the Government.

My Lord *Nottingham* then told me, in the Name of all the rest, *They had no farther Trouble to give me.* I intreated them to suffer me to add a few Words : They permitting me, I said ;

My Lords, I heartily thank you for Confronting me with this Fellow ; else I could not so well have made out my Innocency : But I might still have lain under a Suspicion, whereof I had not known the least Ground. Had this been a Tryal for my Life, I should have been glad to have such Honourable Persons for my Judges. But now I have much more Reason to bless GOD, that you have been my Compurgators : That you are Witnesses, as well as Judges, of the Detection of this Villany against me ; whereof



I must acknowledge, as yet, I do not fathom the bottom. Wherefore I must intreat, That I may put my self under your Protection for the future. For although this Fountain of Wickedness has been now stopt in this Particular, as to my self; yet it seems to run under Ground still: And unless special Care be taken, it may break forth again in some other Place, on some other Occasion, to the Ruine, if not of Me, yet of some other Innocent Person.

Earl of Devonshire. *No, My Lord, You need never fear this Fountain can break forth any more, to do you, or any other good Man, any Prejudice; He having been so palpably Convicted of Knavery and Lying.*

Bishop of R. My Lords, I hope so: As for my Self, I take my own Innocency to be abundantly Vindicated, by this your general Declaration in my Favour. I make no question but your Lordships will next Vindicate your Selves, and the Justice of the Government, by bringing this Wicked Man to Con-dign Punishment, and by examining the main Drift of his Design, and who have been his Accomplices.

They

They all assuring me, I might relie upon them for it, I withdrew.

All this while I had not the least Conje-  
cture, or Imagination, who this *Young* should  
be, with whom *Blackhead* pretended I held  
so close a Correspondence.

But my next Appearance before the Com-  
mittee of the Council, will clear up what re-  
mains of the whole Wicked Mystery.

In the mean time, returning Home that  
Evening to *Bromley*, I presently met with a  
plentiful Concurrence of Evidence from most  
of my Servants, of their Discourse with  
*Blackhead*, and their Knowledge of his Bu-  
siness, in reference to Dr. *Hookes* Letter.

First, The Butler *Thomas Warren* told me,  
That according to my Order to use him  
kindly, he had done so both times he was  
with us: Particularly the second time he had  
entertain'd him with one of the Petty Canons  
of *Windsor*, who came thither by chance, in  
the Parlour next the Garden: That thence he  
brought him down into the Cellar, where  
*Blackhead* Drunk my Health with Knees al-  
most bended to the Ground: That then he  
earnestly desir'd him to shew him my Study;  
saying,

saying, I have heard your Lord has a very good Study of Books : My Master *Hookes* has a very good one : He often lets me go into it, and I doubt not but you have the same Liberty : I pray let me see his Books. The Butler answered, My Lord has but few Books here, only such as he brings from time to time from *Westminster* for present use, and they are lock'd up in Presses, so that I cannot shew them if I would. I pray then, said *Blackhead*, let me see the Room, I hear it is a very fine one. The Butler said, He could not presume to do it without my leave. Then, said *Blackhead*, let me see the rest of the House. The Butler excus'd his not being able to do it then, because there were some Ladies with his Mistress. The same Request, he assur'd me, *Blackhead* repeated almost twenty times : But still he deny'd him.

Then *Thomas Philips* my Coachman, and *John Jewel* my Gardiner, confirm'd most of what the Butler had said : All of them agreeing, that both the times he was at *Bromley*, especially the second, he had talked publickly with them of the Business he came about from his Master *Dr. Hookes* : Enlarging much



in Commendation of the said Doctor, what a Worthy Man he was ; What Hospitality he kept ; And how he would never rest, till he had brought to Punishment the Knave that had forged my Hand and Seal for Orders. They added, That, after I had dismiss'd him, he linger'd about, in the Garden, the Hall, and the great Parlour, a long time ; and was full of such Discourses.

Moreover, the Gardiner, and *William Hardy* the Groom, and *Thomas French*, and one or two of the other Servants, who remain'd at *Bromley* whilst I was in Custody at *Westminster*, did all assure me, that this Man, who brought first the Letter, and then the Message from *Dr. Hookes*, had been a third time at my House, whilst I was under Confinement. That it was upon a *Sunday*, which by Computation prov'd to be *Whit-Sunday, May, 15th*, That they found him in the midst of the House, before they knew he was enter'd. He told them that, passing that way, he came to Condole for my Mishap, and to enquire what the Matter was ; hoping it was not so bad as was reported at *London*. They answer'd, They knew nothing of Particulars ;

ticulars ; yet doubted not but I was innocent. That he then again desir'd to see the House. But all the Doors were lockd, except the great Parlour, which has no Lock upon it. That he would have enticed them to Town to Drink with him ; which they refused, but made him Drink there ; and he coming after Dinner, they perswaded a Maid-Servant to provide him some Meat: Which she did, but unwillingly, telling them she did not like the Fellows Looks ; That perhaps he might come to Rob, or to Set the House, now so few Servants were at Home : That he rather looked (as indeed he did) like some Knavish, broken Tradesman, than an Honest Rich Clergy-Man's Bayliff, or Steward, (as he also call'd himself;) and it has proved since, that her Conjecture was true.

All this, and more, my Servants repeated to me, touching *Blackhead's* Behaviour in my House, and his Discourse concerning his Master Dr. *Hookes*. And they offer'd to depose it all upon Oath. And, above all, the next Day, being *Saturday, June the 11th*, Mr. *Moore* coming from *London*, immediately

ly found the Original Letter, that *Blackhead* had brought me from the pretended Doctor.

Wherefore, being furnished with all these fresh Materials, especially with the Letter it self; and being not a little surprized to hear that the Rogue had, the second time of his coming, been so earnest to get into my Study, or any of the other Rooms; and that he had the Diabolical Malice against me, to come to my House a third time, on pretence of Condoling my Misfortune, which I then thought, it was probable, had chiefly proceeded from his Malicious Perjury against me: All this consider'd, I resolv'd to go to *London* on *Munday* Morning with these Servants, and to carry the Letter that he brought me as from *Dr. Hookes*, to lay the whole Business before the Lords of the Committee, and to desire their farther Examination of *Blackhead* upon these Particulars.

Accordingly on *Munday*, *June* the 13th, I went, and attended the meeting of the Lords that Morning in the usual place. When there was a full Committee, I sent to



them by a Clerk of the Council, intreating that I might have a short Audience. After some time, I was introduced. There were present (besides most of the Lords before-mentioned,) three others whom I had not seen there since my first Appearance before them, the Marquis of *Carmarthen* Lord President, the Lord *Godolphin*, and Sir *John Lowther*.

When I came into the Room, and was just going to propose the Business that brought me thither : My Lord *Nottingham* prevented me, and said ;

*My Lord, Do you know that Person there ?* Pointing to a Man, who stood behind the Privy Counsellors, near the Door which leads into the publick Room.

*Bishop of R.* My Lord, I do not know him.

*Earl of N.* *My Lord, I pray observe him well.*

*Bishop of R.* Upon my Credit I never saw this Man before in my Life, to the utmost of my Knowledge.

Then the Person standing there look'd boldly upon me, and said, *Do you not know me,*  
my

*my Lord? Do not you remember, that I officiated some Weeks at Bromley-College, for Mr. Dobson, in King James's Time? And that I Preached in the Parish Church there once or twice.*

*Bishop of R. My Lords, I solemnly affirm, I do not know this Man: I never saw him before: I never knew that he Officiated in Bromley-College: I never heard him Preach in the Church there: He is a meer Stranger to me: He may have serv'd for the Chaplain of that College in King James's Time: But I was not then concern'd who Officiated there. He may have Preach'd in the Church, and I not have heard him: For about that time I was Clerk of the Closet, and was seldom or never at Bromley on Sundays, by reason of my Attendance on the Princess Anne of Denmark, either at Whitehall, or Windsor, or Hampton-Court, or Richmond.*

*The same Person presently took me up, with insolent Confidence, You will know me better when Captain Lawe appears: I warrant you don't know Captain Lawe neither.*

*Bishop*

*Bishop of R.* My Lords, if any of your Lordships please to ask me any Thing, I shall answer with all Respect. But I do not understand that I am bound to satisfy this sawcy Fellows Questions: Yet, because he has ask'd me so familiarly, touching my Acquaintance with one Captain *Lawe*, I assure you, I know not any such Man in the World as Captain *Lawe*.

But, my Lords, by this Person's Discourse I am induced to believe, he may be the *Young*, with whom the other Knave *Blackhead* pretended the last time that I held a strict Correspondence by his Means.

Earl of *N.* This Man's Name is *Young*, Robert *Young*.

*Bishop of R.* Then, my Lords, because my Lord President, and some of the other Lords, were not here then, I must beg leave of those that were, that I may repeat what I then remembered concerning one *Robert Young*. Whereupon I recollected the Substance of what I had said, of a Letter I had received some Years since, dated at *Newgate*, from one of the same Name, who pretended himself to be a Clergy-man.



I added, It seems, my Lords, by his own Confession, this is the very same *Young*. But as I never saw him before he was in *Newgate*, so I declare, upon the Faith of a Christian, I never saw, or heard from him since that Letter: However I am very glad you have him now: I make no doubt but he will be found in the end such another Villain as *Blackhead* was proved to be on *Friday* last.

But, my Lords, said I, the Business that brought me to wait on you now, is to intreat you to take that same *Blackhead* into farther Examination, and to inquire a little more into his Part in this *Wicked Contrivance*, whatever it is.

My Lords, since I went to *Bromley*, my Servant *Mr. Moore* has had the good Fortune to retrieve the very Original Letter that *Blackhead* brought me from his Counterfeit Master Doctor *Hookes*. Then I deliver'd the Letter at the Table, and my Lord *Nottingham* read it aloud. And to shew with what a Treacherous Insinuation, and plausibility of Style it was written, to draw from me an  
Answer

Answer under my own Hand, I here set down the very Letter it self Word for Word.

My Lord,

**B**Eing destitute of a Curate, one Mr. James Curtis came to me, who produced Letters dimissory (bearing Date, March 13th, 91.) and likewise Letters of Orders under your Hand and Episcopal Seal. Now, my Lord, willing I am to employ any that your Lordship shall recommend, and give him all the Incouragement imaginable; but being since, by his own Words, suspicious that his Instruments are forg'd, I have therefore on purpose sent my Man to know the Truth thereof, and in order thereunto, I humbly beg your Lordship to give an Account in yours by this Bearer, promising, for the Church of Englands Credit, and likewise your Lordship's Honor, that, if he be an Impostor, I will see him brought to condign Punishment for such his Forgery; but if he be not, I beg your Lordships Pardon for this Trouble, occasioned by my candid Affection

*Affection for your Lordship and all Clergy-Men,  
being not willing to have them imposed upon.*

I am Your Lordships

Most Obedient Servant,

Wingrave,  
Apr. 6.--92.

*Robert Hookes, D. D.*

Now, my Lords, proceeded I, I thought it would be for your Service to acquaint you, That I have received, from divers of my Servants, a farther Account of all *Blackhead's* Demeanor, the first, second, and third Time he was at my House at *Bromley*; for he was there a third Time also, which I knew not of, before I went Home on *Friday*.

Then I summ'd up what it has been said before, my Servants were ready to depose to that purpose: Concluding thus, My Lords, my Servants are attending without; I pray that *Blackhead* may be brought before them Face to Face, and that they may be admitted

H

to



to give in upon Oath, what they have to say concerning him.

Upon this, several of the Lords said, Send for *Blackhead*; and he was sent for.

But before he came, they call'd in Mrs *Young*, the Wife, it seems, of the afore-said *Robert Young*; but what a kind of Wife, and which of the two Wives he had at one and the same time, will appear in what follows.

When she was come in, my Lord *Nottingham* said to her, *Mary Young, Whence received you this Paper?* Taking up a Paper that lay upon the Table.

Mary Young. *I had it from Captain Lawe.*

Earl of N. *What did he say, when he gave it you?*

Mrs. Young. *He bid me deliver it to my Husband.*

Earl of N. *What did he say it was?*

Mrs. Young. *He said it was a Sociate, or some such Word.*

Earl of N. *What! Did he deliver you a Paper of this Treasonable Nature, in the manner as it is, to be given to your Husband, without Sealing*

*Sealing it up, or inclosing it in another Paper.*

*Mrs. Young. Yes, my Lord, he did.*

*Earl of N. Did he tell you any of the Names to it ?*

*Mrs. Young. Yes; He said, there were the late Archbishop of Canterbury's, the Bishop of Rochester's, and some other Lords Names to it.*

*Earl of N. What pass'd afterwards between you about it ?*

*Mrs. Young. I gave it my Husband, and when Captain Lawe came for it again, my Husband said, No, These Lords, whose Names are subscribed, have not been so liberal in their Relief of my Wants as formerly; and therefore I will make another Use of this Paper : And so lock'd it up.*

*By this time Blackhead was brought in, and the Woman ordered to withdraw, and to be kept by her self.*

*Earl of N. Blackhead, The last Time you confessed you brought the Bishop of Rochester a Letter from Robert Young, under the false Name of Doctor Hookes.*

*Blackhead. Yes, I did.*

Earl of N. *Can you know that Letter when you see it ?*

Blackhead. *I cannot tell, I doubt I cannot know it.*

Earl of N. *Here it is ; (and it was given into his Hand ; ) Is that the same Letter you delivered the Bishop ?*

Blackhead. *I am not sure it is.*

Earl of N. *Consider it well ; Look on the Superscription, you cannot but remember that. You began to be somewhat Ingenuous last Friday ; if you relapse, it will fare the worse with you.*

Blackhead. *Yes, this may be the Letter : This is the very same Letter.*

Earl of N. *And you received an Answer to this from the Bishop for Doctor Hookes, which you carried to Robert Young ?*

Blackhead. *Yes, I did, I own it.*

Earl of N. *But, What made you, when you were at Bromley the second Time, so earnestly to desire of the Bishop's Butler, and his other Servants, that you might see the Rooms in the House, especially his Study ?*

Blackhead. *No, I do not remember that I desired to see the Study : The House I might, out of Curiosity.*

Earl



Earl of N. But here are some of the Bishop's Servants without, who are ready to swear, That you press'd very often to get a sight of his Study; saying, You had the Freedom at your Master Hookes, to shew any Stranger his Books, and you doubted not but the Butler could do the same there.

Blackhead. I cannot deny that I did desire to see the Bishop's Study: The other Rooms I am sure I did.

Earl of N. What Reason had you to be so importunate to see that, or any of the other Rooms? Had you any Paper about you, that you design'd to drop, or leave in any part of the Bishop's House?

Here Blackhead stop'd, as very loath to out with it; till divers of the Lords urg'd him to tell the Truth. At last he went on, though with much Hesitancy.

Blackhead. Yes, I must confess I had a Paper in my Pocket, which I design'd to put somewhere in the House.

Earl of N. What did you with it?

Blackhead. I did leave it in the Parlour next the Kitchen.

Earl of N. In what part of the Parlour?

Black-

Blackhead. *In the Flower-Pot in the Chimney.*

Good Lord bless me, cryed I. I seriously protest, I never heard that any Paper was found there by my Servants. To be sure they would have brought it me.

Earl of N. *But, my Lord, it will be worth your while to send presently to Bromley, to see whether there be any Paper still, and what it is.*

Bishop of R. My Lord, I will send one away immediately. Only my Servants are without, expecting to be sworn. Be pleased first to call them in, and dispatch them.

Earl of N. *Nay, My Lord, There is no need of their Testimony now. For this Fellow has said already more than they know. He has confess'd, not only that he desir'd to see your House, and particularly your Study, but that he did it with Intention to leave a Paper somewhere in it; and that he did leave one in your Parlour, and in the Flower-Pot of the Chimny.*

Bishop of R. Then, my Lord, I will send away forthwith.

Earl of N. *Stay, my Lord, let us first Examine him a little farther. Blackhead, What Paper*

*Paper was it you left in the Bishop's Chimny in the Flower-Pot ?*

*Blackhead. It was the Association.*

*Earl of N. Was it this Paper here ? Shewing the Association that lay upon the Table.*

*Blackhead. Yes, it was.*

*Earl of N. How came you by it ? And who advised you to lodge it there ?*

*Blackhead. I had it from Mr. Young, and he advised me to leave it in the Bishop's House, as I did.*

*Earl of N. Did Young direct you to put it into the Flower-Pot in the Parlour ?*

*Blackhead. Yes, he did, and I put it there accordingly in the Flower-Pot.*

*Earl of N. But were not you a third time at the Bishop's House ? It was upon a Sunday, which it seems was Whit-Sunday.*

*Blackhead. I was.*

*Earl of N. You pretended to Condole for the Bishop's Imprisonment : It is manifest that could not be your Business. What was it ?*

*Blackhead. I was desired by Mr. Young, seeing the Association was not found by those, who Apprehended the Bishop, to go to Bromley, and try to recover it, that being the Original. I did*



did so, I came into the House before any of the Servants were aware, I went into the Parlour unseen, and took the Paper out of the same place where I had put it, and deliver'd it again to Mr. Young.

*Bishop of R.* My Lords, I am very much surprized at all this. I cannot but admire the Wonderful Goodness of GOD, in this my extraordinary Deliverance. It appears by what this Fellow confesses, that this Forged Association was in my House, in a Flower-Pot, for many Days together: And that it was there at the very time I was seized on by your Lordships Order. For he says he put it there the second time he was at *Bromley*, which was a pretty while before I was in Hold: And took it not out till the third time, which was upon *Whit-Sunday*, the Ninth Day after I was under Confinement. And by a strange and marvellous Providence, that Parlour, where he says it lay so long in the Chimney, was never search'd or inquir'd after by the Clerk of the Council, or the Messenger.

The other part of the House on the Left-Hand of the Hall, where my Study is, and Bed-Chamber above Stairs, and a Parlour  
and

and Drawing-Room below ; all these they searched very accurately. Particularly, I well remember the Messenger thrust his Hand into the Flower-Pots in every Chimney: Which seem'd very odd to me then : But I now understand the meaning of it.

At this, my Lord *Sydney*, my Lord *Nottingham*, my Lord *Devonshire*, and some others of the Council, affirm'd, That they perfectly remember'd, both *Blackhead*, and *Young*, did especially direct them to give Order to those who should be sent to take me, to search all the Flower-Pots.

By this time it was thought seasonable by the Lords to confront *Blackhead* with *Young*.

But in the mean while, the Counterfeit Association, being handed about the Table, was at length deliver'd to me. It was to this purpose, as much of it as, by a transient View, I could carry away in my Memory.

I

That

**T**HAT We whose Names were subscribed, should solemnly promise in the Presence of GOD, to Contribute our utmost Assistance towards King JAMES's Recovery of his Kingdoms. That to this end, We would have ready to meet Him at His Landing, Thirty Thousand Men well Arm'd. That We would seize upon the Person of the Princess of Orange, Dead or Alive; And take Care that some strong Garison should be forthwith Deliver'd into His Hands: And furnish Him with a Considerable Sum of Money for the Support of His Army; or to this Sense.

March 20. —91.

And the Forged Subscriptions were, as I remember, after this manner:

Marleborough. Salisbury. Tho. Roffen.

Cornbury.

Basil Firebrace.

John Wilcox.

Now



Now upon the first sight of this Paper, I presently said, I protest, my Lords, I am very much amazed to see my Hand so well Counterfeited. All the Difference is, they have done me the Favour to write it finer than I can, otherwise I acknowledge it is so like, that I verily believe, I my self, had I seen it in another place,, should have been apt to doubt whether it were of my Writing or no. I am confident it might, upon the first Blush, deceive the best Friends I have.

But, my Lords, here is another innocent Person's Name, whose Hand I know very well. And I dare venture to say, it is even better forg'd than mine. I mean Archbishop *Sancroft's*.

*Lord Godolphin.* My Lords, I am very well acquainted with Archbishop *Sancroft's* Hand. And really it is here most exactly Counterfeited.

Moreover, my Lord *Godolphin*, my Lord *Sydney*, and others said, That the Earl of *Marlborough's* Hand had been so well feigned in a Letter pretended to be written to *Young* himself, that it was very difficult for his most intimate Friends to observe any Distinction.

And in that Letter the Bishop of *Rochester* was said to have the Paper in his keeping, which appears now to have been meant of the False Association's being in my Custody.

Nay, my Lord *Sydney* assur'd me, these very Impostors had brought him a Letter, supposed also to be written by me to *Young*, which being but of ordinary Matters, he thought not worth the keeping, but he well remembered the Subscription of my Name was very like this in the Association, as well indeed it might.

By this time *Young* being come into the Room, my Lord *Nottingham* spoke to him; *Young*, Look upon that Letter, (shewing him his own to me, under the Name of Doctor *Hookes*, ) Do you know that Hand?

*Young*. No, I don't know it.

Earl of *N*. Did not you send that Letter to the Bishop of *Rochester* by *Blackhead*?

*Young*. No, I know no *Hookes*. I never writ to the Bishop of *Rochester*, but in my own Name, with my own Hand.

Earl of *N*. What say you, *Blackhead*?

*Black-*

Blackhead. *I did receive that very Letter from Mr. Young's own Hand, and deliver'd it to the Bishop of Rochester with mine.*

Earl of N. (Taking up the Association, and shewing it to Young,) *Did not you give this Paper to Blackhead, and order him to put it into a Chimney in the Bishop of Rochester's House, and into a Flower-Pot, if there were any?*

Young. *No, I never desir'd him to carry it thither, or to put it into a Flower-Pot.*

Earl of N. *What say you, Blackhead?*

Blackhead. *Mr. Young did give me that Paper, and directed me to leave it in the Bishop's House; and, if I could, to put it in a Flower-Pot in some Room; which I did, in the Parlour.*

Young. *There is no such matter, I absolutely deny it.*

Upon this, the Earl of Nottingham, the Lord Sydney, and some others of the Counsellors, ask'd Young, *Why then did you give us such express Directions, to send and search the Flower-Pots, among other Places, in the Bishop's House?*

Young.



Young. I said nothing of Flower-Pots. I bid you take care that the Bishop's Person should be exactly search'd; because, when he went abroad, he carried the Association about him; when he was at home, he put it in some private place, for fear of surprize: Perhaps I might say in the Chimney.

The Lords replyed, *Nay, we all well remember, you particularly mention'd the Flower-Pots.*

Earl of N. Young, *When you perceived that the Persons sent to seize on the Bishop had missed the Association, did not you then desire Blackhead to go a third time to the Bishop's House, and to take it out of the Pot, where he had laid it?*

Young. *No, I know nothing of it.*

Earl of N. *What say you, Blackhead?*

Blackhead. *At Mr. Young's request, I went to the Bishop's House a third time; it was upon a Sunday; I privately got into the Parlour, and took the Association out of the same Flower-Pot where I had laid it, and return'd it back to Mr. Young.*

Young. *This is a Combination between the Bishop of Rochester and Blackhead, to baffle the whole Discovery of the Plot.*

Which

Which Saying of *Young's* could not but raise a general Smile among all the Company, they lifting up their Hands with great Indignation at his unparallell'd Impudence.

*Bishop of R.* I thought, my Lords, the last Time I was here, *Blackhead* was the most Brazen Faced Fellow that ever I saw; but now I find this same *Young* to be a much Viler Miscreant than he. This is so base a Suggestion against me, and so impossible for me to be guilty of, and I know your Lordships so little suspect it of me, that I need not make any Answer to it in my Defence.

Lord President. *Young*, *Thou art the strangest Creature that ever I heard of; Dost thou think we could imagine, that the Bishop of Rochester would Combine with this thy Confederate, to have an Association Written, with his own Hand to it, and then laid in his own House, in a Flower-Pot there? Which if it had been found, must have endangered his Life: And we see it was the most remarkable good Fortune to him that almost ever hapned to any Man, that it was not found there.*

But *Young* still persisting, that he believed I had taken *Blackhead* off, they were both  
order'd

order'd to withdraw. And, I assure my Reader, that during this whole Examination, tho' *Young's* Forgery was so evidently Convicted by the Confession of his own Companion, and Instrument, yet he behaved himself with a daring unconcern'd Confidence, with a bold and erect Countenance, though it had naturally very much of a Villain in it. His whole Carriage indeed was such, as became the Discipline he has undergone for these divers Years; having so long been almost a constant Inhabitant, together with his Wife, of many of the common Gaols in *England* and *Ireland*; as you shall find before I leave them.

But to make haste to the Conclusion of this Narration; the Lord President call'd for the Letter which *Young* had sent to me under the Name of *Hookes*. When his Lordship had view'd it deliberately, he ask'd also for the *Association*, and having compared them for some considerable time, he broke forth in these Words; *Really, my Lords, it is a very great Providence, that this Letter, sent by Young, under the Name of Hookes, to the Bishop of Rochester, was preserved by his Servant:*



want: For this very Letter, and the Association, were both apparently Written by the same Hand; you may perceive there is no manner of Difference in the Writing; but only that the Letter is written in a less Hand, as Letters are wont to be, and the Association in a greater, as a Publick Instrument.

At this the whole Board, one after another, had a perfect sight of both, and all applauded the Happiness of the Discovery: For it was as clear as Light to all that were present, that the Letters, and Words, of both, were of the very same Form and Figure.

Particularly, my Lord Godolphin farther observed, and made it plain to them all, That the *W* in *W. Cant.* in the Subscription, was the very same Letter with the *W* in *Whereas*, which was the first Word of the Counterfeit Association.

For my Part, I could not forbear Exclaiming, *Great is Truth, and it will prevail.*

After all this, I asking the Lords, Whether they had any farther Service to Command me? And they saying No, I spoke these few Words.

My Lords, I must always acknowledge,

aidT

K

That

That, next the Signal Providence of God, in so visibly protecting an innocent Man, your Lordships fair and honorable Way of Proceeding with me, in not shutting me up close in the *Tower* immediately upon my first Accusation; but in openly Confronting me with these Varlets, whilst the Matter was fresh in my Memory; and in so strictly and impartially examining them now, has been the Principal Occasion, that my Innocency has met with a Vindication as Publick and unquestionable, as I my self could have wished and prayed for. But still, my good Lords, I do again most humbly recommend to your Lordships, The Prosecution of this *Black Con-  
trivance* to the Bottom, for the Sake of Truth and Justice, and for the Safety of every other honest Man, whose Lot this might have been as well as mine. I am sure your Lordships all believe, that there can be no greater Service to the Government, especially at this time, than to have such Perjured Informers, so plainly discovered, to be severely punished according to their Demerits.

And so I took my leave of their Lordships.

This

This is the Substance of what I can remember, as far as my Part goes in this Surprizing Adventure. As to the Account I promised of my wicked Accusers, my Reader shall have it as fast as my weak Eyes will give me Leave to Write it.

Aug. 1. 1692.  
Bromley.

*Tho. Roffen.*

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*The End of the First Part.*

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This is the substance of what I can remember  
but as far as my Tale goes it is  
Adventure. As to the Account I have  
of my wicked Actions, my Reader will  
have it as full as my weak Memory will give me  
Leave to Write.

Yours Affectionate  
John Roffet.

The End of the First Part.

The Second Part  
OF THE  
RELATION  
Of the Late

**Wicked Contrivance**  
Against the Lives of several Persons, by  
Forging an *Association* under their Hands :

Being a farther ACCOUNT of the said Forgery,  
and of the *TWO AUTHORS* of It,

*Stephen Blackhead; and Robert Young, aliàs  
Youngs, aliàs Brown, aliàs Hopkins, aliàs Hutt,  
aliàs Green, aliàs Jones, aliàs Smith, aliàs &c.*

Written by the Bishop of Rochester.

*Quo teneam Vultus mutantem Protea Nodò?*

*In the SAVOY:*

Printed by *Edward Jones*. 1693.

The Second Part

OF THE

RELATION

# Imprimatur,

November 25.

1692.

Edmund Bohun.



TO THE  
READER.

**I**T is well known to divers Persons of  
Worth and Honour, That this Second  
Part was finish'd, and has layn by  
me some considerable time : Excepting the  
Addition of some very few Original Pa-  
pers lately come to my Hands, which  
serve only to Explain, and Confirm some  
Passages, I had Written before.

The Cause of my not Printing it sooner,  
was an Expectation of Robert Young's

## To the Reader.

speedy Tryal. But that being now de-  
ferr'd till the next Term, upon Occasion  
of Mr. Aaron Smith's Sickness, I have  
been prevail'd with, no longer to delay the  
Publication of it.

If any shall still surmize, That I might  
have done better to let him alone yet a lit-  
tle while, till the Justice of the Nation  
had pass'd upon him : I answer, That  
well-nigh all, that I say of him, relates to  
such of his Crimes, which the Justice of  
this, or a Neighbouring Nation, has al-  
ready pass'd upon.

And though I can prove, this Villanous  
Contrivance of his Plot has been at  
least of a Year and half standing; and do  
know very many Steps of it, more than are  
hitherto commonly known; and have seen  
many Letters to this Effect, all Written by  
Robert Young's Hand, some in his own  
Name, some Forged for me, and divers other  
Persons

## To the Reader.

Persons far more considerable; yet my Reader will find, I pass all, or the greatest part of that by, and leave still enough to be produc'd against him at his Tryal.

I do indeed briefly touch upon his late Endeavours to Suborn one Holland, to support his Perjuries by Perjuring himself. But his Discourse with Holland to that purpose, and the Instructions he sent him to Swear by, having been both averr'd already upon Oath, in an open Court of Justice, before a great Assembly at Hicks's-Hall; I know no Pretence, why I should be bound to conceal what was then, in so solemn a Manner, made Publick.

The Truth is, The chief Reason that urges me, at this time, to make known to the World the certain Discoveries I have made of Robert Young's most detestable Villanies of all kinds, is, That I am assur'd,



## To the Reader.

jur'd, this Infamous Man does still persist in his causeless and wild Malice against me, and other Innocent Persons; and attempts, at this time of Day, to Justifie his Forged Association, by the False Testimonies of others like himself.

Wherefore, since he will not yet give me over, it is high time I should begin with him: And whilst he goes on in such a Barbarous Manner, to strike at my Life, surely none will Blame me, if I Debase my Self so much as to Write His.

But if any One shall still suggest, That I have troubled my self too much, and spent too many Words on so Inconsiderable a Rascal: I have this yet to say, That since He could think himself so considerable, as to hope to be an Evidence against Mine, and several Others Lives; I should be wanting to my Self, to Them, and indeed

to

## To the Reader.

to the Publick, *should I not prove him to be a Dangerous Rascal; now it has come so unexpectedly into my Power to do it.*

*It seems also the more seasonable for me at this very time to shew him to the World; since Blackhead has made a second Escape out of the Messenger's Hands; and since there goes about a Letter, (Forged, one would think, by Young himself among his infinite other Forgeries) wherein it is declared, in Blackhead's Name, but in Young's English, That BLACKHEAD has done no Wrong to no Man upon Earth but Young.*

*Whether this can possibly be true, I leave it to any Man upon Earth, that has read my First Part, to Judge. And whoever shall peruse this my Second Part, I doubt not but he will be convinc'd, That, whatever Blackhead has done, I have done Young no Wrong.*

THE

To the Reader.

to the Publick, should I not prove him to  
be a dangerous Rascal; now it has come  
to my knowledge that I am to do so.  
It is also the more reasonable for  
me at this time to show him to the  
Publick, for I have not time to do so  
and I have one of the Misses's friends  
and friends who go about a Letter, (For  
I am not a man of my own name)  
as it is declared in Blackhead's name  
that in Young's English, That Black-  
head has done no wrong to me  
but upon Earth but Young.  
Whether this can possibly be true  
I leave it to you. But upon Earth, that  
I am not a man of my own name  
or shall prove this my second I  
must not but it will be certainly  
whatever Blackhead has done, I  
done Young no wrong.



---

*The Second Part of the Relation of the late Wicked Contrivance of Stephen Blackhead and Robert Young, against the Lives of several Persons, by Forging an Association under their Hands, &c.*

**I**N the former Part I promis'd to give some Account and Character of those Wicked Wretches,, that brought me into the Troubles there describ'd.

I come now to make good my Promise. Only I fear, let me do what I can, the Account of them, which I at first design'd should be very short, will be much longer, and rise to a far greater Bulk than I intended: Especially in what I have to say of *R. Young*.

But for that, I hope, my Reader will reckon it to be his Fault, and only my Penance: Since his Life has been so highly Criminal, and this is so clearly attested, that

I must be somewhat large, or else I cannot do him all the Right he deserves, and fully satisfy the World concerning him.

I must confess, I could never have been brought to foul my Fingers with so base a Subject, had I not been Provok'd, and almost Challeng'd to it, by this same *Young's* intolerable Insolence, even after he found himself detected of manifest Forgery.

For the last time I was discharg'd by the Lords at *Whitehall*, on *June* the 13th, whereof I have already given a full Relation; whilst I was passing through the outer Room, in my way home, there being a Crowd of People, I stopp'd, and said, I pray, Gentlemen, Is Mr. *Young* here? I would fain have another Sight of the Man, who has put himself upon me as my old Acquaintance, and intimate Friend: Though I never saw him in my Life till this very day.

Divers of the Company presently shewing me where he was, sitting by himself; I said to him, *Robert Young*, Your Conscience cannot but condemn you for having thus mortally injured me, and other innocent Persons. I cannot call to mind, that ever I gave you the least Provocation: I am sorry now for  
your

your own Sake, that you are still so obstinate in defending your Forgeries, after they have been so undeniably detected. For you know, there is one of your own Confederates within, who has plainly confess'd them.

At this he briskly, and most audaciously, reply'd to me, without the least Concernment that I could observe, *Confess'd! No; You shall find, to your sorrow, all is not confess'd yet: A Parliament will come; and then you shall hear more from me.* I left him, praying God to give him Grace to repent; and only adding, That else he was more in danger of his own Damnation, than I of his Accusation in Parliament.

Now therefore, because of this impudent Defiance, I have taken some Pains to inquire into the Man, and his former Course of Life.

And notwithstanding the Time of my Inquiry has been so short, (for he was never Personally known to me till I saw him at *Whitehall* on the 13th of *June* last,) nay, though the Scene of his Impious Actions has been so large, that I have been forc'd to collect my Intelligence from far and near; yet I have been so fortunate in my Discoveries of him, and his Meet-help, that now I look up-



on the loathsome heap of Scandalous Materials I have got together against him, I am almost ashamed to make it publick.

But perhaps it may be no unacceptable, I am sure it will be no unseasonable Service to my Country, to present it with a faithful Picture of one of the most graceless Wretches that ever yet enter'd upon the Stage of Evidencing; which I think is as bad as can be said of him in so few Words.

As to a Discovery of the whole Plot and Contrivance against my self and others, I have been able to penetrate no farther yet, than to find that it was hatch'd and ripen'd in *Newgate*, where-ever it was first laid, or design'd.

Of the Managers or Abettors of it, there are but very few hitherto come to my Knowledge: Tho' no doubt there are more still behind the Curtain. And many other Honest Men in all likelihood had been accus'd after the same manner; had this first Attempt taken effect.

For how can it be imagin'd, they would only have introduc'd the good Archbishop *Sancroft*, and the poor Bishop of *Rochester*, and joyning us with three or four Persons of Honor, and a Citizen or two, have then

then suppos'd us to be so Mad, as to engage under our Hands; to seize on the QUEEN's Person; to surprize the Tower; to raise a mighty Army; and to bring the City of *London* into Subjection?

No: Without all Question, if this False Association had once pass'd for Authentick, many other Papers of the same Nature would soon have been produc'd out of the same Forge; to the involving of many other innocent Persons, both of Clergy and Laity, in the like Counterfeit Guilt.

But till Time shall bring to light more of this Detestable Work of Darkness, the whole Ignominy of it must be shar'd at present among the pretended Witnesses, whom I have already heard named.

Of these there was one Captain *Lawe* mention'd both by *Young* and his Wife. And they boasted much of his concurring Testimony, when he should appear. Yet of him I have nothing more to say, than that I find, there really was such a Man as *Lawe*, a Prisoner too in *Newgate*, and freed from thence the Fifth day of *August* 1691: A Captain, *Young* said, he was; and he might as easily make him one, as he made himself a Priest: which

(I thank GOD for the Churches sake) he was no otherwise than in Fiction.

How this Captain got his Liberty, I have yet no Reason, that I know of, to examine strictly; seeing he has hitherto had either the Modesty or the Cunning to withdraw himself, and not to venture being an Evidence in so bad a Cause.

For the present therefore I leave Captain *Lawe*, as I found him, with no other Mark of Disgrace, but what his Friend *Young* has fix'd upon him, by naming him as a Man likely to deserve the Title of the Third Discoverer of his Plot.

Of *Blackhead* too, beside what relates to my Self, which the Reader has had before, I have but one Story more to insert here; though that indeed is home, and to the purpose. For this very *Stephen Blackhead* was Prisoner also in *Newgate*, and condemned on *January 15, 1689*, to stand in the Pillory, and to lose his Ears; together with one *Lewis* and one *Patrick*; being all three Convicted of one and the same Forgery.

*Lewis* and *Patrick*, it seems, were so ill befriended as to have the Rigor of the Law pass upon them. By what Favour *Blackhead* came



came to be Repriev'd and Pardon'd, it is not now my Business over-curiously to inquire. Else I could perhaps tell a Story, how the Knave, being himself a broken Taylor, and employ'd in the soliciting of others Debts; and having, as is usual, some Bills and Letters of Attorney intrusted with him for that purpose, had the good Luck and the Honesty, by delivering up and cancelling one of them, to save his Ears, and purchase his Pardon.

But perhaps I do not well to anticipate any part of *Blackhead's* other Knaveries, not doubting but he will in time supply abundant Matter to deserve a like History of himself: It is more than probable, that some other good and peaceably-minded Man, having been as vilely trepann'd by him as I have been, though perhaps by some other Way than a Flower-Pot, will have the same Reason to search into all his Tricks, and to set them out with as much Variety, in as ample a manner, as I shall now endeavour to do *R. Young's*.

It is this *R. Young*, that, I conceive, has most merited to be my proper Subject: By what appears yet, *Blackhead* was only the Tool, and

and the Instrument: *Young* was the Chief, if not the first Contriver of this Treacherous Design. *Blackhead* was touch'd with some Remorse, so far as to reveal some part of the Truth; *Young* persisted to the last without any Relenting. And when one would have thought he should have been quite overwhelm'd with what his Colleague confessed, he had the Face, in so honourable a Presence, with a prodigious and inimitable Turn of Impudence, to impute *Blackhead's* Confession to my having Suborn'd him.

As to *R. Young* therefore, I will first give a true Draught in little of his whole Life: That my Reader, keeping the principal Passages of that in his Memory, may know where to require Satisfaction in any Particular, from my Original Papers.

But now, in the very beginning of *R. Young's* Story, I might be at some Loss, what is really his Name; for in several Places he has gone under divers Names; and behaved himself so, as quickly to wear them all out, and to make it necessary for him to change them often.

Thus, on sundry Occasions, he has pass'd under the Names of *Brown*, *Smith*, *Hutt*,  
*Jones*,

*Jones, Green, &c.* In *Dublin* he sometimes called himself *Marsh*: In *Raphoe, Hopkins*; to render himself more acceptable in his ill Projects; taking the true Names of the worthy Archbishop and Bishop of those Sees at that time.

Yet, after all, I find the Name of *Young* is most likely to pay all his Scores? for, notwithstanding his many Divings under other Disguises, it has so happened, that he has still risen up again at last, in his own true Name of *Robert Young*.

There may be also as great a Controversie raised, What Country-man he is. In some of the Original Papers in my keeping, he passes for an Irish-man; in some for a Scottish-man; in his own Letters (which I have the least Reason of all to believe, and being my self an English-man, I am most unwilling to believe,) he gives himself out for an English-man, born at *Chester*. Wherefore, till I am more familiarly acquainted with him, than he himself says I am, I must be forc'd to leave his Country uncertain: Though I am confident there will be no great Contention or Emulation between the Three Kingdoms, to which of them he owes his Birth.



In the same Letters, wherein he says he was born at *Chester*, he affirms, *That his Grandfather was Sir Peter Young's Son, and his Grandmother the Duke of Lenox's Daughter.* Had he really been descended from *Sir Peter Young*, I might still urge, that he is the more to blame in rendring *An Honest Stock*, as he calls it there, infamous, by making it degenerate into the most enormous Crimes.

But how can I credit him in this matter of his Extraction from *Sir Peter Young*, and the Illustrious House of *Lenox*; when in the very same Paper there follows immediately that which, to my Knowledge, is a horrid Lye; *That he was Ordained Priest by the Bishop of Clogher*; For I shall give infallible Proof, that his Priests Orders he only imposed on himself, by his own false Hand.

But to clear up this whole Business, I have also by me a true Copy of an Account he gave of himself; wherein, quite forgetting this Romance of his being a *Cheshire Man*, and his near Kindred to the Duke of *Lenox*, he gives this Narrative of his own Life.

It is dated *May 26. 1683.* and declares,  
*That he was born at Warrington in Lancashire:*  
*That*

*That he went over into Ireland, and to School at Iniskillin : That he thence removed to Dublin-College, being 18 Years old ; where he continued Seven Years, and was made Master of Arts Eleven Years since : That thence he went to be Curate in Leighlin ; and for Three Years last past was Chaplain to the Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin : That he Preached all the Courses for the Dean and Prebends at 10 s. a Sermon : That he had all the Book-Money ; that is, the Fees for Marriages, Burials and Christenings, there being no other Parish-Church but the Cathedral : That he liv'd in the Bishop's House till his Death since Christmas : That, Two Years before, he Marrid the Bishop's House-keeper : That he had Testimonials from the College of Dublin ; And was Ordain'd by his own Bishop.*

Now would not any plain honest Man take this to be a simple and true Narrative of the Mans Birth, his Education, and Conversation ? But nothing is more certain than that every Line almost of all this is full of gross Falshoods. And, as Ill-Luck would have it, after he and his reputed Wife had rambled over *England* for divers Years, and cheated Multitudes of well-

dispos'd Persons by the help of False and Lying Certificates, they being at last apprehended and imprison'd at *Bury*, as you will hear, confess'd before the Magistrates, That all their Testimonials and Recommendations, were False, and Forg'd.

Wherefore it is time for me to leave still in the dark, as I find it, that Age of Mr. *Young's* Life, which he has made either to be meerly 'fabulous, or so mixt with Truth and Fable, that there is no distinguishing between them. I now apply my self to that part of it, which, from undoubted Testimony, I can affirm to be Historical. And I shall date the beginning of this Period about the Year 1680.

In that Year, or near thereupon, his first famous Exploit, that occurs to me worthy of himself, was his Marrying a second Wife, *Mary Hutt*, whilst his first lawful Wife *Anne Yeabsty* was living; with whom he had Co-habited Five Years, and had Three Children by her.

Then, to qualifie himself for Employment in the Church of *Ireland*, and to maintain his Family, (which he had taken such a way to increase) he did really insinuate himself into  
Deacons.



Deacons Orders by the Hands of the Bishop of *Killaloo* ; whom he circumvented by forging the Archbishop of *Cashell's*, the Bishop of *Waterford's*, and other Clergy-mens Hands, to False, but very ample Testimonials of his Morals, and Learning.

But as for his Priests Orders, he was beholding to no Bishop for them : He had only recourse to his own incomparable Faculty of counterfeiting Hands and Seals ; so that if that same Dr. *Hookes*, you wot of, had been but an honest Man, he might easily have found out the False Priest, without ever troubling himself to write to me about him.

However, being after this manner Ordain'd Deacon, and having Ordain'd himself Priest, he got to be entertain'd as a Curate, first at *Tallogh* in the Diocese of *Waterford* ; whence , for divers Crimes , he run away with another Man's Horse, which he never restored : Then at *Castle-Reah* in the County of *Roscommon*, whence he was forc'd to flee for getting a Bastard : And lastly, at *Kildallin* in the Diocese of *Kilmore*.

Nor had he been long in this last Cure, but he was accused, for many Heinous Offences, before the Bishop of that See ; who at the time

of my writing this, is the Most Reverend Archbishop of *Dublin*: Whose just Description of the Man, I shall give in its due place; wherein his Grace has represented him, as the most Impudent, Lying, Profligate Wretch on the Face of the Earth.

Wherefore to escape the Justice of his Diocesan, who knew him so thoroughly; he fled into the Diocese of *Raphoe*. But being pursued thither, and trac'd out by the Notoriety of some of his New Pranks, he was apprehended by my old Friend Bishop *Hopkins*, and first imprison'd at *Lifford*; then removed to the Goal of *Cavan*: Where he was presently loaded with many of his former Crimes; especially for having Two Wives then living; *Simon Hutt*, the Father of the second, being then an Inhabitant and Inn-keeper in *Cavan*.

Whereupon the good Bishop of *Kilmore*, now Archbishop of *Dublin*, fearing *R. Young* might come to be hang'd in his Gown, degraded him from his Orders; if I may call them his, since the one of them he had surreptitiously gotten, the other was really none at all.

Shortly after he was Indicted, and should have

have been Try'd for his having two Wives : But he had so order'd the matter, by an admirable Artifice, (which I shall tell by and by,) that the two Women could never be brought together at his Trial, to own him for their Husband.

By this means he was discharg'd of a Crime, whereof I shall presently give manifest Proofs, besides his own Confession, under his own Hand; which, I hope, the Reader will not think he did Counterfeit too.

But still being in *Cavan* Gaol for Fees and Debts contracted there, to free himself thence he made Application to the Duke of *Ormond*, at that time Lord-Lieutenant of that Kingdom; pretending, That if he were once out of Prison, and had Leave to appear before his Grace, he could make notable Discoveries of dangerous Plots against the Government; in which some of the Nobility, and several Bishops, were concerned.

Whereupon, the Popish-Plot having been just before in full vogue there, as well as here, the Duke thought it expedient to grant him his Liberty, in order to his coming up to *Dublin*, to make good what he had so confidently promis'd.

But



But the Knave had his end, and having got out of Gaol by a pretence so plausible, he never thought of calling at *Dublin*, but retired secretly to *Iniskillin*, and let the Discovery of that Plot shift for it self: Which, they that knew him best may think, was the honestest Action of his Life; to break only a Promise, that he might avoid being an Irish Evidence: And perhaps some of my Friends may be apt to say, *Si sic omnia*.

Whilst he was lurking at *Iniskillin*, he intic'd thither his second Wife *Mary Hutt*, who has ever since run the same Fortune with him, and been the inseparable Companion of all his Frauds, and was the very Woman that appeared against me before the Lords, to justify the *Association*. So that from that time we hear nothing more of his true Wife *Ann Yeabsley*. It seems he then entirely cast her off, after he had allur'd her, by the most solemn Vows of living with her alone, and for ever renouncing the other, to be the chief Instrument of his not being convicted at *Cavan*; and that by no less than a downright Perjuring her self for his Sake.

But

But whatever became of her, it is certain, that it was with *Mary Hutt* he fled into *England*, in or about the Year 1683. And from that time to this, they have run a constant uninterrupted Race of all kinds of Wickedness in this Kingdom; scarce ever passing a Month, or a Week, of these Eleven Years, without either being actually in some Prison, or committing such Crimes as deserv'd the deepest Dungeons.

The first News I hear of him, after his Arrival in *England*, was upon his making Application to the Venerable Archbishop *San-croft*, for some Employment in our Church. This he did in the Garb, and under the Character of a distress'd Irish Clergy-man; and to prove himself such, he exhibited his Counterfeit Orders from the Bishop of *Clogher*. And I must not omit, that, as a Testimony of his Modesty, this his first Visit at *Lambeth*, and the producing his Orders there, was within a Month after he had been degraded in *Ireland*.

But the wise and wary Archbishop immediately suspected him and his Letters of Orders; they being not in Form, or the usual Style, nor the Seal fix'd in its due place,

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Against

Against all which Exceptions the Falsary fenc'd as well as he could with a shameless Lye. Yet he received no other Answer, but that his Grace had no Cure void in his Gift.

But *Young* would not be put off so; shortly after he came again, desiring and pressing the Archbishop, to recommend him to be Chaplain to some Ship, or to some Cure in one of our Western Plantations. Which his Grace again refused, and upon surer Grounds than before: For in the mean time he had sent to Dr. *Foley*, Chaplain to the Archbishop of *Dublin*, then in *England*, for a better Information concerning this bold and importunate Man; which produc'd the Letters hereafter set down from the Lord Archbishop of *Dublin*, and the Lord Bishop of *Ferns* and *Leighlin*, touching his Forging of Orders, his Degradation, his double Marriage, and other his good Qualities.

Thus failing at the Archbishop's, he forthwith sent his Woman to *Windsor*, where the Court then resided, with a Petition to the King; therein she sets forth, *That her Name was Mary Green, the Wife of one Robert Green, an Irish Minister; who, going into the West-Indies, upon urgent Affairs, was taken Captive*  
by



by the *Pyrats* of *Sally*. Therefore she prays that the King would be Graciously pleas'd to Recommend her sad Condition to the Clergy of England; and that His Majesty would Request them (so her Secretary words it) to contribute their Charity toward her Husband's Ransom.

This Petition was read in Council Jun. 18. 1684. and referr'd to the Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and the Lord Bishop of *London*. But we may be sure the Petitioner, or her Husband, came no more to *Lambeth*, for an Answer to the Reference. They took a shorter way, and much easier to themselves; they forg'd a favourable Report upon the Petition, under the Archbishop and Bishop of *London's* Hands and Seals; by Virtue of which (together with the Archbishop's true Hand and Seal, which they had gotten by chance, and affix'd a false Recommendation to it) they wander'd a long time over *England*, sometimes together, sometimes asunder, he passing for her Brother, sometimes under the Name of *Robert Hutt*, sometimes of *Robert Green*; and so cheated the King's Subjects of very considerable Sums.

But at length this Plot was unluckily spoil'd by their coming in their progress to play their Pranks in *Suffolk*, the Archbishop's Native Country, especially in *Bury*; where exhibiting their false Recommendations to Mr. *Cleggat* the Minister of that Town, the Vagabond and his Quean were seiz'd upon suspicion; and being severally examin'd, they themselves confess'd before divers Justices of the Peace the whole Train of their Forgeries in this Particular. Whereupon they were Tryed, and found Guilty, and Sentenc'd to stand in the Pillory in the Market of *Bury*, *Octob. 6. 1684.* he going under the Name of *Robert Young*, alias *Hutt*, she of *Mary Green*, alias *Hutt*, alias *Peirson*, alias *Young*.

Sometime after this, having made a Property of the Name of *Green*, and of the Captive Irish Minister long enough, and squeez'd out of it as much Money as it would afford; and not being to be terrified from so gainful a Traffick by one Pilloring at *Bury*, they still carried it on, only changing the Scene, and altering their Style: She, that before was *Mary Green*, is again sent out, and furnish'd by her Friend, with a new set of forg'd Instruments, and Names.

In

In some of her false Recommendatory Papers, she passed for Mrs. *Mary Jones*, Wife of Mr. *Robert Jones*, Rector of *Ashford*: In others, for Mrs. *Mary Smith*, Wife of Mr. *John Smith*, supposed Rector too, at the same time, of the same *Ashford*, in the Diocese of *Canterbury*; whereas neither *Jones*, nor *Smith*, was ever Rector there, no more than Doctor *Hookes* is Rector of *Wingrave* in *Buckinghamshire*.

However, each of these her new Husbands was pretended to be a Prisoner for a vast Debt upon the account of Suretiship: And she carried about with her divers counterfeit Letters of the Hand still of Archbishop *San-croft*, desiring (and in one of her Papers making his Grace humbly to beseech) the Contributions of the Bishops and Clergy for the poor Mans Enlargement.

This Cheat was indeed more Gainful to them than the former. The Archbishop's Hand was so admirably well imitated, especially in the Subscriptions of his Name, that she generally met with a very kind Reception; and particularly applying her self to three Bishops, who, of all the Bench, were the Archbishop's most intimate Friends, even they were deceiv'd by a *Legerdemain* so well devis'd.



vis'd ; and nothing doubting, but it was his Grace's true Hand, (though they knew it almost as well as their own) they and their Clergy were very bountiful to her.

Nor was *Robert Young* himself all this while Idle, but sometimes he accompanied this *Mrs. Jones*, and *Mrs. Smith*, as her Brother ; sometimes he came after her as her Receiver ; sometimes he went a different Road from her, as her Agent deputed to sollicite good Peoples Charity to so Pious a Work : Shewing another false Letter under the Hand of *Dr. Faulconberge*, Secretary to the Archbishop ; wherein were set down divers Sums, as given by several of the Clergy, to draw in others ; and among the rest, I thank her, she owns the Receipt of 4 *l.* from the Bishop of *Rocheſter*.

I admire how it was possible this their Wicked Trade was not sooner discovered ; which it had certainly been in a Nation less Charitable than ours. But here they successfully drove it on the better part of the Year 1687. Till at length the Archbishop was alarm'd from divers Quarters, by Notice that his Hand and Seal went a Begging about the Kingdom : Which occasion'd the Advertisements,

tisements, that were given to the whole Nation in the *Gazettes* of *Sept.* and *Octob.* 1687. to beware of *Mrs. Jones* and *Robert Smith*; and to apprehend them, that they might be dealt with according to Law. Whereupon *Mrs. Jones* was very closely trac'd to *Chester*, and search'd for there by the Lord Bishop of *St. Asaph's* Order. But she prevented the Diligence of his Messenger, and escap'd to *London*.

Not long after this, they both came to *Bromley*. The occasion of it was (as I have understood since) that *Mr. Goodwyn*, who Officiated sometime for *Mr. Dobson*, falling suddenly ill, and going to *London* for Cure; and being at a loss for the Supply of a Chaplain at the College of Widows; had by chance this *Young* offered to him, as a Grave *Irish* Clergy-Man, of good Preferment in that Church, but at present out of Business, having fled that Kingdom with his Family, upon the beginning of the Duke of *Tyrconnel's* Rage against the Protestants.

By help of this Imposture he and his Wife were entertain'd at *Bromley*: Though by good hap they made a very little stay here. Yet as short as it was, he has left signal Marks behind him of his Wickedness, and particularly  
of

of his frequent owning that he had the Knack to Counterfeit any Man's Hand in *England*.

However, during his small Time in the College, the good Widows had respected him, and his Fellow-Traveller so kindly, that he remember'd it two or three Years after, when he was in *Newgate*. I will presently produce the very Letter written thence, in which he is not ashamed to beg of an Hospital, and in a Canting Strain to intreat they would make a Collection among them, towards his being remov'd to the *Kings-Bench*.

The whole Letter is full of Prevarications: But there is one I cannot forbear mentioning now. For though the true Cause of his, and his reputed Wife's being clapp'd up in *Newgate*, was their Forging several Bills of *Exchange*, and receiving the Money upon them, for which they both then stood Convicted, and had been Pillory'd; yet he solemnly protests, and thanks God, That *he was not a Prisoner for any ill thing; but only because an Irish-Man, (whom I pray God forgive, these are his very words) swore against me, That by Virtue of Bills, I rais'd Money for the Use of*  
King



James : *Whereas*, says he, *you all remember, I stood up for the Church of England, and stood in the Gap against the Roman Catholicks in the worst of Times.*

But after a short time of sojourning here, of about six Weeks, or two Months, in the year 1687, *Robert Young* soon perceived, that the poor Town of *Bromley* was not a proper Seat for him to set up his Rest in : where he could only expect a bare Subsistence by Reading Prayers, as a Substitute to one who was himself a Substitute to the Chaplain of the College : whereas he knew, and had practis'd, a far more ready way of getting a plentiful Livelyhood ; whether honest or dishonest he matter'd not.

Wherefore removing hence to *Wapping*, and thence to *White-Chappel*, he began to look out for some fitter place for a new Scene of Action ; where he might more profitably exercise his Best beloved Faculty of Counterfeiting Hands and Seals.

At length he cast his Eye on *St. Albans*, a Town, which by reason of its great Trade, and convenient distance from *London*, and being so great a Thorough-Fair, he pitched on to Practise in it some of the Cleanliest Feats,

I must say, of his knavish Dexterity in that kind.

Between *S. Albans* and *London* he began to ply in the beginning of the year 1688, and it was not long before he crept into a great Familiarity in the *Post-House* there. By what Arts of Courtship he became so intimate on a sudden in the Family, I leave it to the ensuing Papers to inform my Reader.

However, by this means, he procured the absolute Command of all the Mails of that Road; and so had the opportunity of opening and perusing, and taking out, and putting in, what Letters he pleased, between the chief Traders of those parts, and their Correspondents in *London*.

Having thus furnish'd himself with proper Tools, and chosen as fit a Shop to work in, as any in *England*; he presently fell to his usual way of Commerce: whereof I shall only mention three or four Instances: they being the very same for which he and his supposed Wife were afterwards Condemn'd of Forgery at the *Old Baily*.

His first Cheat was thus. In *July* 1688, he went to *Northampton*, and under the Name of *Robert Smith*, paid to *Mr. John Clarke*, an

an Inhabitant there, the Sum of Twenty Pounds, and took his Bill of Exchange for it, to one Mr. *Jonathan Kendall* of *London*: Mr. *Clarke* also sending a Letter of Advice, that he had drawn such a Bill upon him for the Use of Mr. *Robert Smith*.

*Robert Young*, whom we must now call *Robert Smith*, forg'd another Bill *verbatim* by the true one, for the same Sum of twenty Pounds, payable to himself under the same false Name: and straight coming up to *London*, deliver'd the Forg'd Bill to Mr. *Kendall*: which being so very exactly done, Mr. *Kendall* made no delay of paying it, and had *Robert Smith's* Receipt, Dated *July 16*.

As soon as this was over, honest *Robert* immediately took Horse, and hasted down to *Northampton*; where arriving on *July 17*. he forthwith went to Mr. *Clarke*, and told him, *That he had offer'd his Bill at London, but Mr. Kendall refused to pay it, and therefore desired his Money again*, producing the true Bill: which Mr. *Clarke* receiving, and seeing no imaginable Cause of Distrust, paid the Twenty Pounds without any Demurr.



Thus far Mr. *Clarke* and Mr. *Kendall* only sustain'd the Loss of Twenty Pounds, and perhaps somewhat smil'd at the clever Contrivance. But that which next follows, was more extraordinary, and struck deeper into their Purfes.

And how can my Reader now think it probable, that both Mr. *Clarke* and *Kendall* should be again Cheated by the same Hand, of a much greater Sum, within less than three Months after? Yet so it really happen'd; and in such a manner that it was almost impossible for the Wit of Man to prevent it.

His second *St. Albans* Cheat therefore was this. Being now become perfect in the exact Character of Mr. *Clarke's* Writing, he Forg'd a Bill, Dated *October 5. 1688*, as drawn by Mr. *Clarke* on Mr. *Kendall*, for One hundred and fifty Pounds, payable at sight to his own *Mary Young*, under the Name of Mrs. *Mary Clarke*.

And because there was a Necessity that a Letter of Advice should go before the Bill, he Counterfeited one also in this manner. In the *Northampton Bag*, which he opened at *St. Albans*, he found a long Letter written to Mr. *Kendall* by Mr. *Clarke*, touching divers particular

particular Affairs then transacting between them. This Letter he intercepted; Transcrib'd it throughout, and about the middle of his false Copy, inserted these Words, *That he had drawn on Mr. Kendall, a Bill of One hundred and fifty Pounds, to be paid upon sight to Mrs. Mary Clarke;* and so went on with the other Business, as in the true Letter. This Forg'd Letter he put into the *Northampton Mail*; so it went safe to Mr. *Kendall* at *London*.

The next morning after, Mrs. *Mary Clarke* came to him with her Bill. Whereupon Mr. *Kendall*, not in the least suspecting that the Bill or Letter of Advice were Forg'd, because he was confident, they were both of Mr. *Clarke's* own Hand-writing, and the Letter giving him an account of several other Businesses, which he thought could not possibly be known to any, but to Mr. *Clarke* and himself, he presently paid to *Mary Clarke* the One hundred and fifty Pounds, and so lost the whole Sum beyond Recovery.

His third Cheat on the same Road was in this Manner. About the latter end of *February*, in the same year, 1688, he sent his  
second.

second False-Self now again under the Name of *Mary Young*, to Mr. *Jonathan Mathew* of *Daventry* in *Northamptonshire*. She paid him Nine Pounds ; for which he gave her a Bill of Exchange upon Mr. *Richard Shipton* of *London*, payable to the said *Mary Young*, which she receiv'd *March* the 14th.

By this true Original of Mr. *Mathew's* own Hand, on the 18th of *March* following, he forg'd another Bill in the Name of the said Mr. *Mathew*, for 200 *l.* charged also on the said Mr. *Shipton*. And having still the Liberty to search the *Daventry* Mail at *St. Albans*, and finding there a Letter from Mr. *Mathew* to Mr. *Shipton*, he made the same use of it as he had done that of Mr. *Clarke's* to Mr. *Kendall* ; Transcribed it entirely, and in the same surreptitious manner as before, put in an Advice of his having drawn a Bill of 200 *l.* and for whom. Which Letter was immediately sent by the Post to Mr. *Shipton*.

The False Bill and Letter of Advice, I am assured, was so accurately Counterfeited, that Mr. *Mathew* himself could not discover the difference, nor disown it upon view ; but only in that he was certain he had never drawn any Bill of that Importance.

*Mr. Shipton*



Mr. *Shipton* therefore was easily deceiv'd by the Similitude of Hands; and *R. Young* having sent *Mary* to *London*, to receive the Money, he paid it without the least scruple; since this Letter of Advice also mentioned other things which Mr. *Shipton* knew to be true.

Mr. *Mathew*, as soon as Mr. *Shipton* sent him word, that he had paid in his Name a Sum so considerable, dispatch'd immediately a Servant up to *London*, to let him know, He had never drawn any such Bill upon him, and had given him this timely Notice, that, if possible, he might retrieve the Money.

Thenceforth they both us'd all imaginable Endeavours to discover the Authors of the Fraud. Which *Mary Young* perceiving, by their frequent Letters to each other, *Robert* having still the Advantage of opening at *St. Albans*; she wrote Mr. *Mathew* a most insulting Letter; telling him, *That she had made bold to borrow of Mr. Shipton 200 l. upon his Credit, but would repay it when she was able.* And to amuze him the more in his Search, she addeth a Flam Story, *That she had got his Hand by Corrupting one of the Letter-Carriers in London; and that therefore he need not trouble*

*trouble himself to enquire any farther about the Matter : Subscribing her self, Mary Young, alias Brown, alias Stewart, alias Forbus, alias Boner, &c. of which pretty piece of Impudent Raillery, my Reader shall have the true Copy, when it comes in its course.*

*His last Forgeries Practis'd at St. Albans, that have come within my Observation, were upon Mr. Olds of Coventry, and Mr. Billers of London.*

*But before I proceed to these, I must acquaint my Reader, that Robert Young had ow'd Mr. Olds and Mr. Billers an antient Grudge, of as long standing as the Year 1683 ; Because then he could only defraud them of Ten Pounds, and a Ring, and not of one hundred Pounds, as he design'd. The Case was thus :*

*Robert Young, in June 1683. Forg'd a Bill in the Name of Mr. Joseph Olds of Coventry, for 100 l. upon Mr. John Billers of London ; payable at sight.*

*He likewise Forg'd a Letter of Advice of the said Bill, which he procur'd to be put into some Post upon the Road. And accordingly it was deliver'd in London to Mr. Billers on June the 12th.*

The

The next Day, being *June* the 13th, *Robert Young*, in a Canonical Habit, with a Scarf on, presented to *Mr. Billers* the Forg'd Bill for 100 *l.* The Counterfeit was exact, and *Mr. Billers* had receiv'd a Letter of Advice before. Whereupon he strait order'd his Cash-Keeper to pay the Reverend *Mr. Young* his Bill.

*Robert* seeing the Money come so freely, would have taken it upon Content. The Servant would not pay it, except he would tell it over ; which at length he did.

But before he could carry it away, the Servant whispering this to his Master, and *Mr. Billers* himself observing something in the Bill, that gave him reason to suspect it, came to them, and said to *Robert*, *That he desir'd to be better satisf'd in the said Bill, and that he was the Person, whose Right it was to receive it, since he knew him not.*

*Robert* reply'd, *He was a Country Minister, altogether a Stranger in Town, and known to none but the Archbishop of Canterbury.* Well, said *Mr. Billers*, *When you bring me any of the Archbishop's Gentlemen, to give me an Account of his Grace's Knowledge of you, you shall presently have the Money.*

F

But



But *Robert* pretended very urgent Occasions for it, and that *he was to pay away some of it that Night* ; and therefore earnestly intreated *he might have the whole, or at least Ten Pounds of it for the present.* Mr. *Billers* consented to this last Request : Mr. *Young* gave a Receipt for the Ten Pounds : And to prevent a farther trouble of telling the Money again, Mr. *Billers* desir'd him to Seal the rest up in the Bag where it was put. Mr. *Young* had no Seal. Mr. *Billers* pull'd off his Finger a Gold Ring set with a Cornelian Stone : Bid Mr. *Young* Seal the Bag with it : Gave the Ring into his keeping : Appointed him to bring it again the next Day, when he came for the Residue of the Money. Mr. *Young* very fairly went away with the Ten Pounds, and the Ring ; but never came again for the Remainder of his Bill, or to bring Witness that he was acquainted with the Archbishop.

Having now set forth this Matter of Fact of Mr. *Billers* keeping back 90 *l.* from Mr. *R. Young*, even just when he was in the very Act of Receiving it. I leave it to my Reader to judge, whether *Robert* did not owe him a Good Turn. My next Business is to shew how he paid it him. Some Years indeed

deed had pass'd before he took his Revenge, which I somewhat wonder at ; but he took it at last to some purpose.

The manner how it was done, I shall express as briefly as I can, because the Circumstances of this were very near the same with his other aforementioned *St. Albans Forgeries*.

About the middle of *Febr. 1688.* he sent his Faithful Instrument *Mary*, under the Name now of *Mrs. Sarah Harris*, to pay the same *Mr. Olds* 10 *l.* at *Coventry*, for which he gave her a Bill of Exchange upon the same *Mr. Billers*, payable at sight : So, for very good Cause, *Robert* took care all, or most of his Bills should be worded.

By this means *Robert* renew'd his Acquaintance with *Mr. Olds's* Hand, and soon perfected himself in it, by watching over all his Letters of Correspondence with *Mr. Billers*, which must come from *Coventry* through *St. Albans*, where he Govern'd those that Govern'd the Post-House.

Being thus prepar'd, he began at first to play at small Game, that he might keep his Hand in use. For, finding in one of *Mr. Olds's* Letters, two Bills, the one of 14 *l.* 10 *s.* the

other of 20 *l.* both payable to Mr. *Billers*, he took possession of the Letter; Forg'd Endorsements on the Bills, in the Name of Mr. *Billers*; that they should be paid to his Servant *James Moreton*: Whose true Name was *James Young*, and he was really *Robert's* Servant. And accordingly both these Bills were paid Aug. 5. 1689. to *James Moreton*, alias *Young*; as it seems nothing can belong to *Robert Young* without being intitled to an *Alias*.

This *James Moreton*, alias *Young*, I say, did actually receive both the Bills; and thinking it was but reasonable he should have a share in the Profit, as he had in the Knavery, paid the Sum of the one Bill to his Master, and kept the other to himself: The first Cheat, and the last (I believe) that was ever put upon Mr. *Robert Young*.

But after these less gainful Experiments, it seems, *Robert Young* thought it now a fit Season, that his main Plot upon Mr. *Olds*, and Mr. *Billers*, should begin to work. For by his long familiarity with the Northern Mails, he had learnt, that at this time there was a considerable Cash of Mr. *Olds* remaining in the Hands of Mr. *Billers*.

Where-



Wherefore, by the same Method which he had used in his other Cheats of this kind, he forg'd a Bill of 200 *l.* to be paid at sight to the same Mrs. *Sarah Harris*, proceeding in the same Steps as before; that is, he intercepted one of Mr. *Olds's* Letters; Transcrib'd it; adding an Advice of having drawn the said Bill of 200 *l.* for Mrs. *Sarah Harris*: Then suppress'd the true Letter, and put the False One into the Post; which was deliver'd to Mr. *Billers* at *London* upon *August* the 11th, 1689.

The next morning came Mrs. *Sarah Harris* to Mr. *Billers*, and produc'd her Forg'd Bill: He could discover no Deceit in the Hand; own'd he had received the Letter of Advice; and was just giving Order for the Payment; when, by good Fortune, he recollected, That he had heard Mr. *Shipton* of *Friday-street* had, not long before, been defrauded after the same manner, by a Woman, coming (as this did,) in the morning, and of the same Sum of 200 *l.*

The fresh Remembrance of this gave him just Grounds of being Jealous of the like Trick: So that, while the Money was Telling out, he thought it would not be amiss to  
send

send and desire Mr. *Shipton* to come and take a view of this Mrs. *Harris*, intimating the Reason why he sent for him.

Mr. *Shipton* came accordingly; and upon the first sight declared her to be the same *Mary Young*, that had lately Cheated him of his 200 *l.*

She being thus unexpectedly charged with this Crime, confess'd it upon the place: Whereupon she was Apprehended, and Committed to the *Kings-Bench*; after she had received above 500 *l.* in a short space, by the like Ways, whilst she was such a kind of Agent at *London* for *Robert Young*; as my Reader will find she own'd upon Oath afterwards at *Lichfield*.

But in the *Kings-Bench* I must leave her for a short time, that I may look out after her Dear Friend, and inquire, how he behaved himself in this sad Catastrophe of their Affairs; after they had so long proceeded smoothly, and prosperously.

It was high time for him now to intermit his Correspondencies at *St. Albans*, and to remove to a greater distance from *London*; so that the next Foot-steps, I have trac'd of his Rogueries, were at *Lichfield*: Whither, I find

find also, he had made some Excursions in the Year 1688. But now, in the Year 1689, it seems he went thither resolving to settle there for some time.

There he appeared in a gentile Habit, with his Man, *James Young* alias *Moreton*, to wait upon him: There he personated again an Irish Clergy-man, of considerable Preferments in that Church, and a plentiful Temporal Estate. He kept two Horses, rode often abroad in an Equipage rather fitting a Highway-man, than a Divine. He had plenty of Gold and Silver, and some Plate; the Product, no doubt, of his late Cheats upon Mr. *Clarke*, and Mr. *Mathew*, and Mr. *Olds*, besides some Remains probably of what was collected for Mr. *Green*, Mr. *Jones*, and Mr. *Smith*, whilst they, good Men, perhaps, lay in Prison for it all the while.

During his abode at *Lichfield*, he profess'd himself to be a single Man, and upon that Pretence made Love to divers Women, in the way of Marriage; believing, that his former *Mary* was lodg'd so safely in the *Kings-Bench*, that she could never get out to disturb his Designs.

But



But there he was deceived : For when the Fire broke out in *Southwark*, she made her Escape, and so had leisure to look out after him, and came time enough to prevent his intended Marriage.

For just then he was in close pursuit of a young Woman at *Tamworth*, who had at least 1000*l.* to her Portion, and he was in great probability of obtaining her. But *Mary*, having got loose by the above-mentioned Accident, wrote him divers Letters, *That all her Money was spent ; That she would be with him shortly, though she begg'd by the way.* Which at last she made good, and arrived there some few days before his new-design'd Wedding, and Challeng'd him for her Husband. Or else undoubtedly he had serv'd *Mary Hutt* the same Trick, for the sake of a Thousand Pounds, as my Reader will find he really serv'd *Ann Yeabsly* for One Hundred and Fifty.

But this had like to have cost *Mary* her Life : For *Robert* being enrag'd at the disappointment, practis'd with his Man to meet her in her coming down, and either to cut her Throat, or Drown her. And when he refus'd, (which was a Wonderful Honesty  
in

in any one that could submit to be his Man,) Robert's next Attempt was to dispatch and kill his Man, as he went abroad one day with him a Shooting.

My Reader no doubt will be amaz'd at this horrible Story, yet I say no more than what his Man himself declared upon Oath at *Lichfield*, and what all the Country thereabout believes to be true.

But the Gun not going off, his Man fled from him, first to *Lichfield*, and thence to *Coventry*; where he acquainted Mr. *Olds*, a Mercer there, whom I have already so often mention'd, with the several Cheats that his Master *Robert Young* had formerly acted upon him, by Forging Bills of Exchange.

Mr. *Olds* having never before, by all his Search, been able to discover the Contrivers of those Forgeries, without delay, repaired to *Lichfield*, and lighted upon *Robert Young* whilst he was yet flush of Money and Plate; which he pretended to have brought out of *Ireland*, where he affirm'd he was a Dean.

Mr. *Robert* being thus unawares charg'd with all these Cheats, freely confess'd them all to Mr. *Olds*: And, that he might not lose

his new-gotten Reputation in the Church there, and all his Hopes at once, privately made up the Business, and repaid to Mr. *Olds* all he could demand: That is to say, the 14 *£*. 10 *s*. the 20 *£*. and the 10 *£*. and the Value of the Gold Ring: Which unlucky Blow to his Fortune made him, for the future, be content to be serv'd without Plate.

But this was also the Occasion of a worse Mischief, that shortly after befel *Robert Young* and *Mary*; I say *Mary* also. For before this, she arrived safe at *Lichfield*: And though at first he positively deny'd her to be his Wife, and forswore her too, according to his Custom; yet, in short time, I know not how, they were piec'd together again, as seeming indeed to be born for one anothers Society.

I have already told my Reader, That Mr. *Mathew* of *Daventry* had used all possible Industry, and written a vast number of Letters, and made many Fruitless Journies, in quest of the Author of his 200 *£*. Forgery. But all in vain, till now, the Noise of it spreading all over the Country, came at length to Mr. *Olds* at *Coventry*. He presently gave Intimation by Letter to Mr. *Mathew*, *How he himself had likewise been Cheated of divers less Sums, and recovered*



recovered them again by Composition : And that his Knave was still in a Flourishing Condition at Lichfield ; and he might probably be the same Man.

Mr. Mathew, upon this Intelligence, quickly posted down to *Lichfield*: Beset the House over Night where *Robert* and *Mary* lodg'd : The next Morning *Mary* was soon taken, and *Robert* also, after above an Hours search, was pull'd out from under a Heap of Furz in a Corner of the Cellar.

They both immediately confess'd the Fact; and *Robert* would fain have stopp'd Mr. Mathew's Mouth, as he had done Mr. *Olds*, with the small Relicks of his ill-gotten Wealth.

But that not sufficing for a Sum so considerable; *Robert* stoutly denied all again, and defy'd him to do his worst: Whereupon they were both clapp'd up in *Lichfield* Gaol.

During this Time, News was come to the Secretaries Office at *Whitehall*, of the aforesaid Violations on the Post-Office at *St. Albans*; and that the Persons Offending were in Custody at *Lichfield*. Whereupon the Right Honorable the Earl of *Shrewsbury*, then Principal Secretary of State, granted a Warrant to Mr. *Legatt*, the King's Messenger, to bring

them up to Town, as being accus'd for dangerous Practices against the Government: The Persons abused by the former Forgeries giving their Consent that they should be so removed.

Mr. *Legatt* brought them up, laid them first in the *Gatehouse* in *Westminster*; whence, by a Warrant of the Lord Chief Justice, they were removed into *London*, and lodg'd, safely (one would have thought,) in *Newgate*.

To *Newgate* they had directly steer'd their Course the greatest part of their Lives; and thus at last wrought their Way thither *per varios Casus, per tot Discrimina*. There they were Try'd and Condemn'd for these Forgeries, and underwent again the Punishment of the Pillory; he being Fin'd for one Fault 100 Marks, for the other 100 Marks; and she 20 Marks.

If my Reader shall ask, *Why Robert was found Guilty of no more than two of these Cheats?* It was, Because there was no other Proof against him for the rest, but the Confession of *Mary*, who plainly confessed him to be the Author of all. But that, it seems, in Law, is not Evidence sufficient, because they supposed her to be his Wife; 'twas pity the Judges

Judges and Jury had not known how little she was his Lawful Wife.

However, in *Newgate* they continued above two Years for want of Payment of these Fines, till the 25 of *May* last, when his Fines were paid: I suppose his Wifes Fine was Discharg'd too. For they both came forth in Triumph, and New Cloaths on that Day, with the *Association* in their Hands; after they had prevail'd with *Blackhead* to steal it in, and steal it out of my Chimney.

Thus, according to the Fashion, I have given a True Pourtraict of these Precious Evidences of a New Plot. My next Business will be to exemplifie all this more largely, by Authentick Proofs: Which, if I mistake not, I shall do so unquestionably, that none shall be able to disbelieve what I say against *Young*, but such as can believe what *Young* has said against me.

But first I will dispatch *Blackhead*: Touching whom I will only give a Copy of the Record of the Sessions, at the *Old Bayley*, where he was Condemn'd for Forgery.

*London*



*London ff. Deliberat' Gaol' Dominor' Regis  
& Regin' de Newgate tent'  
pro Civitat' London, apud  
Justice-Hall in le Old Bayly  
London, die Jovis ( scil. )  
15<sup>o</sup> die Januarii, Anno Reg-  
ni Will' & Mar' nunc Regis  
& Regin' Angl' prim' &c.*

*Felix Don Lewis, } Convict' pro fabricand' &  
Thomas Patrick, } publicand' falsum Script'  
Steph. Blackhead, } Obligator' in Nomine cu-  
jusd' Thom' Faulkener pro  
summ' 60 l. ponantur &  
quilibet eor' ponatur supra  
Pillor' uno die in Cornhil  
prope Excamb' London ab  
hora undecima ante Me-  
rid' usq; ad hor' prim' post  
Merid' ejus diei: Et qui-  
libet eor' habeat un' aur'  
ibid' absciss' & quod qui-  
libet eor' habeat & susti-  
neat imprisonament' in  
Gaol' de Newgate per spa-  
tium unius anni integri  
sine Bal' vel Manu captur'  
juxta form' Statut' ejusd'*

By this it appears, *Blackhead* and his two Companions were Convicted of Cheating one Mr. *Faulkener* of 60 l. by a false Bill or Bond ; and were Condemn'd to stand in the Pillory in *Cornhill* near the *Exchange* for two Hours; To lose each of them an Ear; And to continue Prisoners for Twelve Months without Bail or Mainprize in *Newgate* : Where, no doubt, that Intimacy between *Blackhead* and *Young* was contracted, which had been so fatal to me, had not God marvellously defeated their Conspiracy against me.

Having thus for the present rid my Hands of *Blackhead*, I proceed next to *Young*. And the first Scene of his Villanies, that have come to my Knowledge, having been in *Ireland*, I will now give certain Demonstration of the Particulars, out of the Original Papers themselves : Which seem to me to describe the Gaytiff so plainly, that I need only set them down in their Order, without any Comment of mine upon them.

The principal Crimes I have already Objected against him in *Ireland*, were his Marrying a second Wife, whilst his first was alive: His Counterfeiting Certificates for Deacons Orders: His entirely Forging of his Priests

Priests Orders ; and his Feigning the Knowledge of a Dangerous Plot in that Kingdom, wherein he would make out , that divers great Persons were engag'd.

There are also several others of his Rogueries, such as his having a Bastard by a Kitchen-Wench at *Castle-Reah*, whilst he was a short time Curate there : His lewd Life, and Cheating divers People of Money by Counterfeit Bills at *Tallogh*, where he was also sometimes Curate : His running away with another Mans Horse, when he was forc'd to flee thence for his other Pranks ; and the like. All these, and more such will come in as by the by ; and it will be enough for me only to give my Reader this Notice, to mark them in the Papers I am going to produce : The Method of which shall be this.

First, He shall have *Robert Young's* general Character, in a Letter from the present Lord Archb. of *Dublin*, and another from the Lord Bishop of *Ferns* and *Leighlin* ; both written so long ago as the Year 1683 : Whilst he was only under suspicion at *Lambeth* ; and before he had enter'd upon so many Vile Practices in *England*.

In these Letters he is even then described  
to



to be as wicked a Lyar as the little Carmelite Fryer Moor, and to be as very a Rogue as the Spanish Wits have fancied their Gusman. Who the Carmelite Fryar was, I know not; Gusman is sufficiently known. But in the Sequel it will appear, that our Rogue has far outdone the very Spanish Romance of theirs.

Secondly, He shall have the Lord Bishop of Raphoe Hopkins's Letter to the Lord Bishop of Kilmore, when R. Young was apprehended in that Diocess under the Name of Robert Hopkins; for which Name also he shew'd his forged Letters of Priests Orders, upon his Examination by the said Bishop, which shall also follow.

Thirdly, Here are the Copies of the Original Certificates confirming the Truth of both his Marriages.

Fourthly, Here are divers Letters of Robert Young's own Hand, when he was imprisoned at Cavan, and in danger of his Life for having two Wives.

1. A Letter to one Justice Waldram; to offer him a Bribe if he would take Bail for him.

2. Another Letter to the Lord Bishop of Kilmore, confessing some of his Knaveries, but solemnly denying his having married two Wives.

H

Next

Next, Here is a Letter to *Roger Yeabsly*, Brother to his first Wife *Ann Yeabsly*, alias *Apfly*.

Then another to *George Yeabsly* her Father; Then two Letters to her self.

In all these he confesses his two Marriages: however proposes to her and her Brother, a way to save his Life by forswearing themselves: that they should get a Certificate at *Cork*, signed by a publick Notary; that *Ann Yeabsly* was really married to one *Robert Young*, and that *Roger* her Brother was present at the Marriage, and that then they should both come to *Cavan*, and, upon his Tayal, deny that he was the Man; and if they did him this Service, he promised, with horrible Imprecations upon himself, that he would only stay to receive *Mary Hutt* his second Wife's Portion, and then run away with *Ann Yeabsly*, his first Wife, into *England*.

Lastly, To compleat all, I will produce two of his Letters to his second Wife *Mary Hutt*, the one after he had fled out of the Diocese of *Kilmore*; the other after he had got to *Iniskillin* out of *Cavan* Goal.

The first is full of the like blasphemous Curses and Execrations upon himself, if ever he was married to any other Woman but her; there-

therefore inviting her to come and relieve him: with dreadful Promises and Vows of never forsaking her.

In the second, to say nothing of his impudent Reviling of the Lord Bishop of *Kilmore*, he desires her to steal away from her Friends to him, and to bring the Bond with her; (a true one, without doubt) to bring also all the Money she could get, and to be sure to pay no body; which was accordingly done, and so with her he fled, and took Sanctuary in *England*.

*A Letter from Dr. Foley, containing part of a Letter from the present Lord Archbishop of Dublin, concerning Robert Young; written in the Year 1683. to the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*

*May it please Your Grace, Tunbridge, June 27. 1683.*

**L** Ast night I receiv'd a Letter from my Lord Archbishop of *Dublin*, concerning Mr. *Young*; part of it runs thus:

' If he be *Robert Young* whom I degraded, he is the veriest  
' Villain alive: He has now, or had when I knew him, several  
' Wives living A notorious Cheat, has counterfeited several Hand's  
' and Seals, by which he has deceived Men of Money, and stoln  
' into Credit, and Holy Orders. He has been in several Gaols,  
' as namely *Lifford*, where he was laid up by the Bishop of *Re-*  
' *phoe*, now *Derry*, who is going now for *London*: and if you



' can procure him to see him, I am confident he remembers  
 ' him well enough. He was long in *Cavan* Goal, and to be try'd  
 ' for his Life; where I got, and have by me, very many of his  
 ' Papers, which would enable any Man to write the *Scotchman's*  
 ' *Life*, which I think would transcend the *Spanish Rogue*. For  
 ' fear he should hang in his Gown, by the Advice of the *Lord*  
 ' *Primate*, I degraded him for the least of his Villanies; be-  
 ' cause the *Canon* was exprefs, and he guilty, as was prov'd, of  
 ' Marrying without License. In brief, he is a notorious wicked  
 ' Man, and so well furnish'd with the necessary Instruments of  
 ' it, that I think *Fryer Moor*, the late Convert, cannot exceed  
 ' him in Lying. He is a black swarthy Man, of a suspicious  
 ' Countenance. He has several Names. He assum'd mine in  
 ' some places; *Hopkins's* at *Raphoe*; and washere lately by the  
 ' Name of *Brown*: but hearing that I was here, I suppose, made  
 ' off again. The last Wife he married was one *Simon Hutt's*  
 ' Daughter of *Cavan*. I send you the inclos'd, which I pray  
 ' reserve for me. 'Tis a Letter he wrote to his second Wife, after  
 ' he fled from me. Keep the Letter for me; I send it, because I  
 ' am mightily of Opinion he is the Man. Here is another Let-  
 ' ter to his former Wife, *Ann Teabfely*, at the same time; by  
 ' which you will be satisfied that *Robert Young* is a very ingenious  
 ' person, and a man of deep Contrivance. Had he been in time  
 ' and place, he would have made an excellent Evidence; and  
 ' had that Trade gone on, I had doubtless been in a Plot; for  
 ' he declar'd he had a Plot to discover, in which some *Noblemen*  
 ' and several *Bishops* were concern'd. I am confident I had been  
 ' one; and the Bishop of *Waterford* (whose Hand and Seal he  
 ' counterfeited to me, and the Bishop of *Elphin*) another; from  
 ' whom he pretended Orders, and the Bishop disown'd upon  
 ' my Letter to him.

*Dublin, June 2. 1683.*

Thus far the Archbishop.

I send inclos'd to your Grace the two Letters, which my  
 Lord sent me, and beg your Grace will please to keep them  
 by you, till I can wait on you for them; because he desires to  
 have them again. I am bold to say, That your Grace will here-  
 after be a little suspicious of Clergy-men who come out of *Ire-*  
*land*, without better Testimonials; and that it will be for the  
 Honour

Honour of our Clergy and University, that wicked and ignorant Men, who pretend to be of them, and are not, be animated on by your Grace, with some severity. I beg your Grace's Blessing, and am

Your Grace's, &c.

Sam. Foley.

*A Letter from the Lord Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin, now Archbishop of Cashells, to Dr. Foley, concerning the same Robert Young; written in the Year 1683.*

SIR,

Dublin, June 2.

According to your desire, I waited on my Lord Archbishop of Dublin, to enquire of His Grace concerning one Young, whom he degraded for several notorious Crimes, as having two Wives, counterfeiting the Archbishop of Cashell's Hand to the Bishop of Killaloe, for his being made Deacon; which the Bishop (not discovering the Cheat) did; and then his Counterfeiting the Bishop of Clogher's Hand for the Order of Priesthood, which he never had: He went likewise under several Names, and was in several Goals, particularly in that at Cavan for a great while. The Man, my Lord says, is about his Grace's own Stature, that is, somewhat tall; neither lean nor corpulent; of a pretty long, black, ill Visage; his Hair, if his own, is black, thin, pretty long, and hangs flag without any Curls. He is a Scotch-man, about 27 or 28 years of Age; and will lye as fast as the little Carmelite Fryer Moor (to use His Grace's own expression) And this is all I can say of him. I am

Your, &c.

Narcissus Ferns & Leighlin.

*A Letter*

*A Letter to the Lord Bishop of Kilmore, from  
Bishop Hopkins, then Lord Bishop of Raphoe;  
written in the Year 1680. concerning Robert  
Young's Apprehension in his Diocese, under  
the Name of R. Hopkins.*

*My Lord, Raphoe, Nov. 31. 80.*

**Y**OUR Lordship's to me came very seasonably, that is, one day before Mr. Young: and he came very confidently, expecting much kindness for Namesake; for he thought it fit to assume mine; and, at his first accost, thrust into my hands Letters Dimissory, lewdly forg'd, as from the Bishop of Killaloe; with the Seal to them vilely cut, and the Date of *octo die Octobris*. This alone would have given me suspicion of an Imposture; but being forewarn'd by your Lordship, I was certain I had the Man, though he lurk'd under another Name. The Contents of the Letters were the amplest form of Commendations, which I keep by me, but shall remit when your Lordship requires it. I put many cross Interrogatories to him, till at last one Lye so contradicted another, that the Man was perfectly confounded, and began to speak Truth. There were two other Justices then with me: We took his Examination, a Copy of which I have sent here inclosed. When I press'd him upon the Point of Polygamy, he utterly deny'd it, as indeed it concern'd him; as also that he ever was at *Londonderry*, much more that ever he was School-master there; and this some who were present believe to be Truth. Besides some affirm, That, to their knowledge *Sarah Mallon*, who was afterward married to one *Young*, was, upon his decease, married to one *Mt. Laughtin*, a Minister in the Diocese of *Londonderry*, with whom she now lives. I know not whether he can be so well vindicated from others, for your Lordships speaks of two or three more. However, his Misdemeanors and Forgeries were so many, that we committed him to the County-Goal, where I hope he will not long continue. For, as at your Lordship's desire I have secur'd him, so I must desire



desire that your Lordship would speedily take Order to have him sent where, the fullest Evidence may be given against him.

I am

Your Lordships, &c.

Ezechiele Raphoe.

The Examination and Confession of R. Young, before the Lord Bishop of Raphoe and others, in the Year 1680.

County Donegal.

**T**HE voluntary Examination of R. Young, late of the Parish of Kildallin, in the Diocese of Kilmore, and County of Cavan, Clerk, taken at Raphoe the 10th of November, 1680, before the Right Reverend Father in God, Ezechiele Lord Bishop of Raphoe, Richard Inett Clerk, and Matthew Cocken Esq; Justices of the Peace of the said County of Donegal.

Who being voluntarily examined, upon Suspicion of being guilty of several Forgeries and Misdemeanors, saith, That he was Curate at the said Parish of Kildallin for three Quarters of a Year; that he came thence in October last; that he had not any Certificate or Dismiss from the Bishop of that Diocese; that, he confesseth the Counterfeiting of Letters dimissory from the Lord Bishop of Killaloe, and the Seal and Subscription thereof are false; as also the Name of R. Hopkins in those Letters Dimissory mentioned, he intended to have taken on him; but that his own Name is Robert Young; that he was about three Years since ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Killaloe. That he is a married Man; and that his Wife's Name is Hutt, Daughter to Simon Hutt, and is now with her Father in the Town of Cavan; that he was never Married before: And saith, That he is not guilty of counterfeiting any Letters of Orders; but confesseth that he did counterfeit and forge a Letter from one Dr. Smith of Limerick, to the Bishop of Killaloe, upon which Letter, he ordained the said Examinee Deacon, as aforesaid, and further saith not,

Robert Young.

Capt. coram nobis  
Ezechiele Rapotenti.  
Rich. Inett.  
Mat. Cocken.

Copies.

Copies of the Original Certificates and Papers, confirming the Truth of both *Robert Young's* Marriages, and both his Wives being alive at the same time.

The Certificate upon Oath of *George Teahly*, or *Apsly*, his first Wife's Father, concerning *R. Young's* first Marriage, with three other Certificates of his Cheats.

Memorandum.

Jan. 17, 1680.

**T**HE Day and Year above written, *George Apsly*, of the Breedas, in the Parish of Arda, in the County of Cork, Yeoman, came before me *Richard Pine*, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County, and made Oath, that on, or about the 18th of May last was five Years past, He, this Deponent, was present, and gave his Daughter, *Ann Apsly*, in Marriage with one *Mr. Robert Young*, Clerk at *Ralph-cormack* in the County aforesaid; and that he saw them lawfully joynd in Matrimony (*Dr. Smith* Minister) and lived together several Years afterwards. He afterwards (that is to say) about two Years last past, was Curate under *Mr. Francis Beecher*, in the Parish of Tallogh, in the County of Waterford; and that his Daughter *Ann* had three Children born and begot by him, and that she (his Daughter) is now living.

*George Apsly.*

*Fir at. coram me R. Pine.*

17. Die Jan. Ann. Dom.  
1680.

*Thom. Neesham, Notario publico presente.*

Jan. 17, 1680.

**I** *Richard Burt* of Tallogh, in the County of Waterford, Esq; do certify, That (upon perusal of the within Contents) the within named *Robert Young* was entertained and licensed as a Curate in the Parish above-said, and afterwards deposed for Reasons unknown to me; but did soon af-

ter

ter (viz.) about Christmas 1679, feign aad counterfeit my Name and Hand-writing to an Acquaintance and Kinsman of mine at Feather for seven Pounds (Mr. Cook by Name) and did by vertue of his other Counterfeit Letter in my Name, receive (as I am assuredly told) the Summ of three Pound of one Henry Russel of Clonmell. The Truth of all which I certifie under my Hand and Seal, the Day and Year above written.

Richard Burt, Vice Com.

Jan. 17, 1680.

**I** Thomas Elms of Tallogh, in the County of Waterford, Feltmonger, do certifie, that the aforementioned R. Young, on, or about the First of December 1679, did hire an Horse, with Bridle and Saddle, to ride to Cashel, of me, at the Rate of 12 d. per day; all which he hath deceived me of to my great Damage. And I certifie under my Hand the Day and Year above said.

his  
Thomas † Elms.  
Mark.

Being Present,

Richard Burt, Vice Com.

Garret Roche.

Francis Foulke.

Roger Power.

Thom. Neesham, Notarius Publicus.

### The Counterfeit Bill of Mr. Burt.

S I R,

Tallogh, 17, Dec. 1679.

**T**HE Bearer hereof, Mr. Robert Young, Minister of our Town, is bound for Cashel to the Archbishop, to pay some Money. Therefore I intreat you to do me that great Kindness, as to let him have three Pound, and I will pay you, when you call for it. If you do me this Courtesie, I will requiet you for it: So hoping you will not fail, I rest your loving Friend,

Richard Burn

To Mr. Henry Russel, Goldsmith  
at Clonmell.

I

Decem-



December 18, 79.

Received of Henry Russel the Sum of three Pound: I say, received  
by me,

R. Young, Clerk.

The Certificate of divers other Persons, touching Robert Young's First Marriage.

**W**E whose Names are subscribed, do hereby certifie all whom it may concern, that R. Young (who lately supplied the Cure at Tallogh) was (as we are credibly informed) married at Rath-cormack, by Dr. William Smith, to Ann, the Daughter of George Yeabsly, about five Years since; during which time the said Robert Young and Ann did cohabit or dwell together as Man and Wife at the House of the said George Yeabsly; where they had three Children; which said George Yeabsly, and Ann, his Daughter do now dwell at Monoth, within four Miles of this Town of Tallogh. All which we do certifie this 21st Day of January, 1680.

Thomas Beecher, *Prebend: de Clashmore.*  
Richard Gift.  
Richard Giles.  
John Yeabsly.

William Gift.  
William Page.  
Thomas Clark.

Richard Burt, *Vice Com.*  
George Oburn.  
Robert Benger.  
Francis Cooper.  
Thomas Bateman.

The Certificate of the Dean of Kilmore, concerning Robert Young's Second Marriage with Mary Hutt.

**I** Edward Dixy, Dean of Kilmore, do hereby own and acknowledge, that I married Robert Young, formerly Clerk and Curate of Kildal-lin, in the Diocese of Kilmore, and Mary Hutt, Daughter of Simeon Hutt, of the Town of Cavan, Vintner, on the 1st Day of July last, in the Presence of the under-named Persons, and (others) who with my self do hereby certifie the same, and subscribe hereunto this 5th of March, Ann. Dom. 1680.

Edw. Dixy, *Decan. Kilmor.*  
Hen. Gillorist, *Notar. Public.*  
Simeon Hutt.  
Lettis Hart, *Sen.*

Lettis Hart, *Jun.*  
Ann Hollend.  
Alexander Makleland.  
Thomas Lavender.

A T

*AT the Request of Mary Young, alias Hutt, we do hereby certifie, that Robert Young, in the abovesaid Certificate mentioned, lieth in the Gaol of Cavan, and standeth charged with being the Husband of two Wives, viz. Mary Hutt, now resident in the Corporation of Cavan, and one Ann Absly, in the County of Cork, unknown to us. And we do hereby desire some of his Majesties Justices of the Peace for the said County of Cork, that they will be pleased to bind over the said Ann Absly, her Father, and some other Persons, who were present at the Inter-marriage of the said Ann to the said Robert Young; that they may appear the 30th Instant, to give their Evidence against the said Robert Young.*

*Dated at Cavan, the 5th of  
March, 1680.*

Hump. Perrott, Vice Com.  
Richard Lewis.  
Samuel Townly.  
John Maxwell.  
Hen. Waldram, Sec. of Cavan.  
Mer. Hart.

*An Order of the Judges to summon George Yeabsly, his Son Roger, and Ann Young his Daughter, to appear at the Assizes at Cavan, at the Tryal of Robert Young.*

*By his Majesties Lords Justices of the Assize for the Province of Munster.*

*Whereas George Absly of Breedas, in the Parish of Arda, in the County of Cork, Yeoman; Roger Absly of the same, in the said County, Yeoman, Son to the said George Absly, and Ann Young, are material Evidences in his Majesties Behalf, against Robert Young, now Prisoner in his Majesty's Goal of the County of Cavan, and charged with being married to two Wives, both being alive; these are therefore, in his Majesty's Name, to will and require you, George Absly, Roger Absly, and Ann Young, to appear before his Majesty's Lord Justices of Assize for the North-West Circuit of Ulster at Cavan, on the 30th Day of this Instant, then and there to give your Evidence in his Majesty's behalf, against the said Robert Young. Whereof you may not fail at your Peril.*

*Dated at Cork, this 17th Day of  
March, 1680.*

Hen. Hen.  
William Davis.

*Robert Young's Letter to the Lord Bishop of Kilmore, confessing his Guilt of some Crimes, but denying his double Marriage.*

*May it please your Lordship,*

**H**AVING deliberately consider'd the Evils I have really done, and the greater Evils that have been mis-reported of me to your Lordship, I cannot but acknowledge the Justice of your Lordships Displeasure ; and I am now so far from making any Defence for the ditingenuous Shifts, my Necessities and Fears have put me upon, that I have already been my own Accuser, and do as much condemn my self as the severest Judge can do. And I hope no Temptation of Secular Advantage shal ever hereafter make me so far swerve from the severe Rules of Vertue becoming a Christian and a Clergyman. But tho I am willing in all Humility to submit my self to your Lordships Censure for what I have done amiss: Yet I hope your Lordships Goodness will be my Sanctuary, where I am manifestly wrong'd. There are so many Persons of Credit here, that knew the Gentlewoman, that was affirm'd, and (as I hear) sworn to be my Wife, in these Parts; that I doubt not but it wil be made clear to your Lordship, that that Report was the Issue of Ignorance and Malice ; and I hope a little time wil acquit me of what other Reports I suffer under in that Matter. But while I am here in Confinement, I am in a manner debarr'd of all Expedients to clear my Innocence, at least to do it speedily. And in the mean while I suffer all the Hardship of a Goal amongst People, from whom I can expect no Relief, and at so great a distance from such as might relieve me, that I can hope for little Comfort from them. May it therefore please your Lordship, so far to favour my Innocence in this Matter, as that I may be brought to Hearing before your Lordship ; where, if it appear that I have any other Wife but her with whom I have liv'd in your Lordships Diocese ; I shal quietly submit my self to the Severity of the Laws ; if not, I hope my Penitence and Reformation may in time mitigate your Lordships just Displeasure for the confessed Faults of

*Lifford, Novem. 26,  
1680,*

*Your Lordships most Humble Suppliant,*

*Robert Young.*

*A Letter.*



*A Letter from Robert Young to Justice Waldram, offering him a Bribe to let him be bayl'd.*

*May it please your Worship,*

**M**Y Mind I thought your Worship understood, therefore if your Worship does not understand what I mean (as I suppose you do) I wil discover it to your Worship. For, may it please your Worship, I have not any to make my Complaint to but to your Worship. Therefore I most humbly beg your Worship to take Bayl, and I will give you 40 s. Moreover, my Brother will bring a Letter from Captain *Sanderfon*, that my Brother is sufficient Bayl, and that Captain *Sanderfon* is satisfyed to take him, provided I get any other: And I, not being \* *Acquented* with any in these Parts, fears I cannot procure another easily; but if your Worship will take any other Bondsman with my Brother, I will give you the aforesaid Summ of Money, before you take Bayl: And I will take my Oath to your Worship, that I will not tell it to any body. Dear Mr. *Waldram*, do me that Charity, for I ly in a sad Condition; Indeed you will do me a singular Kindness, and shew a great deal of Charity in so doing: for I know if your Worship please, it lys in your Hands. I desire your Worship not to discover any thing to the Bearer or any other. I intreat your Worship to write your Worships Mind to me by the Bearer, that I may send him for Captain *Sanderfons* Letter to your Worship. So I rest,

*Your Worships most Humble Suppliant to command,*

Robert Young.

*A Letter from Robert Young to Roger Yeablsly his Brother-in-Law, to come and save his Life by forswearing himself.*

*Dear Brother,*

*Cavan, Feb. 5, 1680.*

**C**OME along to me with your Sister, for I have fallen under a sad Businels, and I will loose my Life if you and your Sister does not come to deny that I am not the Man. For Christs Sake, Dear Brother, come along with her; and I hope you shal not be the worse for it; for my Life lyes in my Wifes and your Hands: So that I am certain

certain you will do what lyes in you ; if you do not come, I will be put to Death ; but if you and my Wife comes, you may have many a merry Day with me hereafter. So I rest,

*Your Loving Brother,*

Robert Young.

*A Letter from Robert Young out of Cavan Gaol, to his First Wife, Ann Yeabsly, to the same purpose.*

WHEN I left you last, I came to *Belturbet* in the County of *Cavan*, where I serv'd as Curate for the space of half a Year, and had 35 l. a Year. Upon which I spoke to my Brother-in-Law to bring you down to me, but he seem'd unwilling to go so far. At which time I used too oft, which is my Sorrow this Day, at one *Simon Hutt* in *Cavan*, curst be the Time that ever I went there. Whereupon *Simon Hutt* proffer'd me 150 l. with his Daughter ; and he getting me Drunk one Night, I was married to her, and was ready to cut my own Throat the next Day ; but I seeing what a Primary I had by my Ludness brought my self in, I saw that it could not be avoided : whereupon I resolv'd only to stay till I had gott the Money promis'd, and then to come to you, my dear Honey, and so for you and I to go for *England*, where we should never be known. But my Journey was stopt, for *Simon Hutt* heard something of my Marriage to you, before the Portion was paid, and so sent up to know whether it was so or no. And so the Messenger brought word, that one *Robert Young* a Minister, was married to one *Ann Yeabsly*, Daughter to *George Yeabsly*, near *Tallogh* : But for all that the Messenger brought, they knew not whether I was the Man or no. So that it may be deny'd with safety, to preserve my Life. For they have clapt me in Goale upon Suspicion, where I lye in a deplorable Condition, and no body to help me. Therefore, Dear Honey, for Christs sake come to me, and bring my Brother *Roger* along with you ; for the Assizes is the 6th of *March* ; where I will be tried for my Life, and there is not any in the World can preserve it ; only you, My Dear Honey, if you come and say that I am not the Man, you were married to, and bring my Brother *Roger* along with you to justify the same ; I will be set at Liberty ; and then I shall get what Money is promised, and go over to *England* with you. And I wish that I may never thrive in this World, if ever I leave you hereafter ; for I care no more for this Husy, than for the Durt under my Shoo.

Shoo. O Curse of God light on me, if ever I leave you hereafter, if you prove so real to me, as to come and deny that I am none of your Husband ! for there is no way to save my Life but that. I wish that I may never see the Kingdome of God, if I do not prove as real, constant and loving Husband to you, as ever Man did to Woman. Dear Heart, I know that I have committed a grievous and abominable Fault ; but I may blame bad Company and my Drink for it. Therefore, for Christs Sake, Dear Honey, forgive me, and come along with the Bearer and clear me. And the Curse of God light on me, if I prove false to you after saving my Life. For now my Life lyes in your Hands. I will earnestly repent for what I have done, and I hope God Almighty will forgive me. If I had 100 Wives, it is you alone that is my lawfull Wife, and shal be to my dying Day. For Christs Sake come and say that I was not the Man you were married to. I say, Dear Heart, come along with the Bearer, and bring my Brother Roger along with you. If you do not clear me, I will be put to Death ; and is it not better for you to come and tell a Ly to preserve your Husbands Life, and to enjoy him as long as you live, and I lives ; than for to have him put to Death, and never to see him again ? And this I will assure you, that there will be an Order from my Lord Chief Justice to bring you down against the Assizes : So that I sent the Messenger to prevent that, by giving you timely Notice ; for you may come and stay in my Brother-in-Laws House, untill such time as we do get our Business done. And I will go with you unknown to any body. So hoping you will come and save the Life of your loving Husband ; I rest, Dear Heart,

*Your Loving Husband, and till Death,*

*Cavan, Feb. 5,  
1680.*

*Robert Young.*

Here I have sent you the Enclos'd to my Father, and my Brother Roger.

Pray present my Duty to my Mother, and my Love to my Brother John, and William Haskins, and my Sister Else ; and my Blessing to my poor Child, if she be alive.

*A Letter*



*A Letter to her Father George Yeabsly from Robert Young,  
proposing the means how he might gett off by his Son and  
Daughters Perjuring themselves.*

Dear Father,

Cavan, Feb. 5, 1680.

I Have declared the Reasons and Causes of my Marriage in my Wifes Leter, which you may peruse; therefore Dear Father and Mother forgive me, for it was a folly of Youth-hood, and if you come to prosecute to put me to death, I cannot help it. But if you give your consent to my Wife to preserve my Life, this shal be a warning to me so long as I live. O, Dear Father, you know that *David*, a Man after Gods own Heart, was guilty of both Murder and Adultry. And therefore, Dear Father preserve my Life, if you please, And I protest to God Almighty, I will never forsake my poor Wife, your Daughter, so long as Life continues; for it is she that is my lawfull Wife. And therefore for Christ's sake, Dear Father, send my dear Wife and my Brother *Roger*, to clear me by the same means that I have prescribed in my Wifes Leter. If I were clear'd I could gett Mony enough to do you and I good, as the Bearer can tell you. After I am clear'd I will carry my Wife and my Brother *Roger* down to se my Grany, whom I dare not as yet write to. If you have a mind to save my Life, do not come your self; but send my Wife and my Brother *Roger* down to me. And go to *Tallow* and gett a Certificate drawn, and have it sign'd by Mr. *Burt* and Mr. *Neeskam*, that *Ann Yeabsly* is your Daughter, and that she was Married to one *Robert Young*, that they may believe she is the same Woman; and that *Roger Yeabsly* is your Son, and that he was standing by when *Robert Young* was Married to your Daughter; and if you have a mind to save my Life, they must deny that I am the Man: For there is no way to preserve my Life, but that. Write also to *Simon Hutt* in *Cavan*, that you would a comt to se if it were the same person, to prosecute him, but only you fell sick; and therefore you sent your Son and Daughter to prosecute, if it be the same Man. So having no more at present to write, I Rest,

Your Loving Son

Robert Young.

My Duty to my Mother, and Love to my Brother *John*, and Sister *Else*, and my Brother *Haskins*, and all the rest of our Friends in general.

*A Letter*

*A Letter to his Second Wife, Mary Hutt, denying his first Marriage with terrible Curses.*

O, my Dear Heart,

YOU know it was for Love of you that I brought this misery upon my self, God Almighty help me ; I was fully resolv'd to tell you the contents of all my Letters, whenever I could have the opportunity of speaking to you : For my Landlady can tell you, that I was fully resolv'd to shew you the Letters, but could not, by reason I could not gett speaking to you. O, my Dear, have I thrown my self for the Love of you into all this misery, and you to serve me thus : Surely if you have the Heart of a Stone you will not do it. O, if I had but only you here, I would a reckon'd all this nothing ; but if I be requited thus, I cannot help it. O, I wish to Christ I were Ten foot under Ground, and then you would have your hearts desire as I perceive, Those Leters that I write, was only for that Woman to come and clear me ; for I was afraid that if I had writ any otherwise, she would not come. But upon those Leters I was certain she would a com't and clear'd me. And then I was in good hopes to have enjoy'd you again. If I had had my liberty and your consent, I would quickly have brought you out of all your misery. I write purposely to that Woman against you, for to have her come and clear me ; which if she did me justice, I am certain she cannot do to the contrary. I wish I may never leave this place alive, if ever I was Married to any other Woman upon the Face of the Earth, but you. But if you will be pleas'd to give me a meeting, I will satisfy you why I write so to that Woman ; and you wil find it so at long runing ; tho' I dare not say that my Soul is my own here. For Christs sake take pity on me, and let me not starve in this deplorable condition. For Gods sake pay my Landlady but only for one Months Diet unknown to any ; and if I do not prove what I said formerly to be truth, then never pay another week for me again. My dear Heart, for Christs sake do not heed these Leters, for I write them only in design to gett my Liberty, and to enjoy your sweet company again. God let me never se the Face of God Almighty, if there was any other design in it. You may believe me a poor miserable Soul I hope you will take all this to consideration, for if I had but only your favour, I did not care for any thing. but if not, pray put an end to my days. I wish that I may never se the Kingdome of God and Christ, if ever I was Married to any Woman but your self. Indeed I should not take such an Oath as this, if I found my self guilty, and knowing not how long I have to live. O,

K

my

my dear Soul wil you believe any body before me, I have seen the day, you would not believe any before mee, but now it seems the case is alter'd. I wil take the Sacrament to morrow, and take it on my death if I were going to dye, that those letters were write upon no other design ; O wish that I may never se the face of my Saviour, If ever I was married to any other Woman but your self. Surely you may believe me in this sad Condition, and know not how long I have to live. If you will but only do me the Charity as to come and speak to me, I will give you full Satisfaction why I write to *Abby* : If you remember, I told you somewhat of that Woman before I left *Belturbit*. O my dear Heart ! Will you not do me the Charity as to give me a Meeting, that I may satisfy you ? O ! will you my Dear, leave me comfortless in this sad Condition. God knows I ly. Weeping and Writing. I thought I was well enough so long as I had you on my side ; but now it seems all Comfort is fled from me. O wil not Death make an end of this Misery ! if not, I wil if I can conveniently. If you give me any Comfort, I will endeavour to clear my self, and take a good Heart still : But if not, I wish they would put me out of this Misery. For I am sure I shal die with a clear Conscience. If you forsake me, I have none to take my Part ; but if not, I hope you and I shal have joyful Days for all this. So hoping you will pity my Condition, I rest, Dear Soul,

*Your Loving Husband till Death,*

Robert Young.

I hope you wil send me an Answer by the Bearer, what you are resolv'd to do. If you will pay for my Diet unknown to any, my Landlady wil say that she took my Word.

*Another Letter to her from Iniskillin, after he was got out of Cavan Gaol.*

*My Dear Heart,*

I Am safely arriv'd at *Iniskillin*, and am well at present, and cares not for all your barking Dogs at *Belturbit* and *Cavan* both. Let them do what they can, I care no more for them than I care for the filliest Dog in the Street. But as to that, I will leave it off at present. I hope you are mindful of your Promise to me in *Harris's Garden*, made to me there. Here I have sent the Bearer purposely for you, and



and I give him 6 s. for going for you. Dear Heart, do not fail but come along with him to me, for my Life lyes where you do : If I had your Company, I did not care for all the World. Dear Heart, I say again, come to me, for I will assure you have as many Tears from my Eyes, as there are Letters in this Letter from your poor Husband. Therefore, Dear Heart, if ever you intend to see me alive, come to me now ; if you do not, I will make this Town my Burial place. I hope you will take no bodys Counsell in this case but your own. If your Friends will not let you come to me, pray (if you have any Love for me) steal away to come to me. Send all your Linnen and Cloaths of Woollen, and my Cloaths also out before you, and seal all that you cannot bring along with you ; and be sure not to pay a Farthing to any body, but keep it your self ; take my Counsel, I desire you. Dear Heart, you and the Bearer may contrive the Business I suppose, and be sure bring the Bond or Mony along with you, for you know I have but little Money when I pay the Bearer. I could a had a Place, but only it is too nigh your Bishop, that Dog. Don't fear, for I will soon get a Place if I would look for it. So hoping you wil come to your poor Husband, I rest, Dear Heart,

*Your Loving Husband, till Death do us part,*

Robert Young.

Pray do not trust any thing with the Bearer, but come your self.

Dear Heart, Be sure to bring the Bond along with you, if you love me ; and all the Papers that you find in my Box. I hope you will not fail to perform all that I have spoken.

All these Letters of *Robert Young's*, I have set down just as I found them, under his own Hand, in his own way of Spelling, as I shall do the rest of his which are to follow. And perhaps some Reader or other, who is more acute in such Matters than I am, will shrewdly guess thereby, and by divers unusual

Words and Expressions, and his Manner of Syntax, what Country man he is.

That which next follows, is another of his disingenuous Shifts (as he modestly calls them) performed also in *Ireland*: I mean his Prophane Invasions of Holy Orders; that of Deacon, by deluding the Lord Bishop of *Killaloo* with Forg'd Certificates; that of Presbyter, by his own Sacrilegious Self-ordination.

To prove this, I shall produce also the undoubted Evidence of Original Writings; wherein, as in those foregoing, and indeed in most of the other Papers I have by me concerning him, it may easily be observed, that besides the main Crime they chiefly intend to prove, there is also here and there a casual Mention made of divers other Steps towards his present Pitch of Perfection.

And particularly in this whole Cheat, relating to his Orders, it may be observ'd, that he had always ready divers Sets of Testimonials, Letters Dimissory, and Letters of Orders fitted to his several Names, and pretended to be from several Bishops. But let the Papers speak for themselves.

*A Letter from one Dr. Nicholson of Castle-Reah,  
to the Lord Bishop of Kilmore, concerning Ro-  
bert Young's forging Certificates.*

Castle-Reah, in the County of Roscommon,  
My Lord, Decemb. 22, 1680.

I Receiv'd a Letter from your Lordship concerning Mr. Young ; I am glad he is secur'd. Upon better Recollection of his Doings, I remember exactly that he produc'd Letters of Priests Orders here, not, from your Lordship (as I at first suppos'd) but from the Bishop of *Killaloo*, and that by the pretended Recommendation of the Archbishop of *Cashell* ; under whose Hand he shew'd a Letter here, directed as to the Bishop of *Killaloo* ; and another from the Bishop of *Killaloo*, in answer to that ; and to acquaint the Archbishop that he had ordained Mr. Young ; several others here saw his Letters. I hope his Forgery and Sacrilegious Invasion of the Priesthood will receive due Punishment for the necessary Discouragement of others of the like Impudence. I am,

Your Lordship's, &c.

Edward Nicholson.

*A Letter from the same Dr. Nicholson to the  
Lord Bishop of Elphin, concerning Robert  
Young's hainous Miscarriages.*

My Lord, Castle-Reah, Octob. 11. 1680.

I Do verily believe that Mr. Young was never Ordain'd by your Lordship, nor any else : He produc'd Parchments in this Diocese from the Bishop of *Kilmore*, as Ordain'd Presbyter by him, and that by Mediation of a Letter from the Arch-  
shop



shop of *Cashell*, which he shew'd me here, and I suspected it Counterfeit: as also I did his Letter of Orders: for which Suspensions, if I had had as great Evidences, then, as I had since, I should have seiz'd his Papers; but being then glad to be rid of him, I dispatch'd him, without giving him the Interruption to meddle with his Papers. As to the Character of him I am sure he was a most unconscionable ignorant Villain; he got a Bastard here by a Kitchen-maid at the Inn he first lodg'd at; which he own'd himself to me; and being needy, I bestow'd on him 40 s. more than I ow'd him, to carry him away. Yet when he went to *Dublin*, he counterfeited Letters under my Hand to my Brother, a Merchant there, to get 50 s. worth of Goods; and did also the same for Mr. *Dalton* to his Son-in-Law in *Dublin*. Both the Letters were return'd to us by the Post, and we never heard from him since. But we hear he had a Wife living, and another before her, and was seeking for a third very busily. We have heard so much of him since, that we all think it great pity he was not rather hang'd, than employ'd to serve at the Altar. I am certain, if any conscientious Person that could apprehend him, would make it their Design to rid the Church of such a Scandal, he would sufficiently appear to have deserv'd that, if not to be quite pack'd out of the World. And I assure your Lordship, 'tis no Grudge at his Person, but perfect Charity and Zeal for the Church, which forces me to give this Testimony of him, in obedience of your Lordships Commands, which require my Character of him. And if your Lordship could be a Means of preventing him from further proceeding in the Profanation of Holy Things and Offices, it would no doubt be acceptable Service to God and his Church; which is only submitted to your Lordships Wisdom, by

*Your Lordships, &c.*

Edw. Nicholson.

*A Letter*

*A Letter from one Mr. Fletcher to the Lord Bishop of Kilmore to the same purpose.*

*My Lord,*

*James Town, Octob. 19. 1680.*

I Suppose my Lord of *Elphin* will be particular with your Lordship in the matter of *Mr. Young*; *Mr. Cook*, who was Surrogate of *Elphin* Diocese, tells me, he had never Letters of Orders from that Bishop. It is certain he fled from his Cure at *Castle-Reah*, having got a Wench with Child: And Fame says he has two Wives besides the last. I am,

*Your Lordships, &c.*

*Ben. Fletcher.*

*A Letter from the Lord Bishop of Waterford to the Lord Bishop of Kilmore, concerning Robert Young.*

*My Lord,*

*Waterford, Feb. 5. 1680.*

I Should have sent your Lordship an earlier account of your last to me concerning *Young*; But I did desire to inform myself the best I could for your better satisfaction of his having a Wife in these parts, and being Chaplain to the Earl of *Barrimore*, and Tutor to his Son. As to the former, you will receive here enclos'd a Certificate from the High Sheriff of the County, and several of the best of the Inhabitants of *Tallogh*, to which I refer you; and as to the latter, I have spoken with some Persons of Quality from those parts, who tell me plainly, That *Young* was never Chaplain to the Earl of *Barrimore*, nor went Tutor to his Son to *Oxford*; for his Son was never there. But for farther satisfaction, I have imploy'd a Friend to the Earl of *Barrimore* himself for his Certificate, which every day I now expect. This *Young's* Rogueries and Forgeries must needs redound

dound to the Great discredit of the Chutch: And I think your Lordship has done very well in taking up his pretended Letters of Ordination. I humbly intreat you farther, That you would be pleas'd to take up that Forg'd Testimonial he shew'd you in my name; and to send it to me, who am

Your Lordships, &c.

He. Waterford and Lisimore.

*Robert Young's Counterfeit Letter from the Lord Bishop of Waterford to himself; together with his Forg'd Testimonials from the same Bishop.*

SIR,

Waterford, March 30. 1680.

ACcording to your expectation, I have sent you the inclos'd, and truly am sorry you left my Diocese; but however I will be kind to you, if any thing offers it self worthy your acceptance. So concluding with my Blessing to you, I rest

Your &c.

H. Waterford and Lisimore.

Locus Sigilli, *These are to Certify, That Mr. Robert Young, Cler', and Master of Arts, (whose Testimonials from the University of Oxford, in Magdalene College I have often perus'd) is a Man whom I have known from a Child; and knows him to be of a Sober, and Religious, yea, a Singular Life and Conversation. Who behav'd himself in my Diocese, as becometh a Labourer in God's Vineyard. And as concerning whose Parts, I myself has often sounded them, and knows him to be a Singular Scholar; yea, I may say, as well qualified for the Function as any within my Episcopal See, which is not all I have to speak in his Commendation. All this I do certify, as witness my Hand and Seal this 30th day of March, Ann. Dom. 1680.*

H. Waterford  
and Lisimore.

A Letter



*A Letter from the Lord Bishop of Waterford, to the Lord Bishop of Kilmote, and another from the Earl of Barrimore, touching Robert Young's never having been the Earls Chaplain, or Tutor to his Son as he pretended.*

*My Lord,* Waterford, Feb. 18. 1680.

**I** Acquainted your Lordship in my last, that I daily expected an Account from the Earl of *Barrimore*, concerning *Young's* pretended Chaplainship to his Lordship; I do now send your Lordship here enclos'd an account thereof from the Earl; and do earnestly intreat that your Lordship will be pleas'd to take up that Forg'd Certificate *Young* shew'd you in my Name; and to send it to me. Our Post will not give me leave to write any more, but that I am

*Your Lordships, &c.*

*Hen. Waterford and Lismore.*

*My Lord,*

*Castletyons, Feb. 11. 1680.*

**I** Receiv'd a Letter from Mr. *Dalton*, wherein he gives me an account of one *Young*, who has impudently and falsly call'd himself my Chaplain, and my Son *Buttervant's* Tutor. I never saw him but once that he brought me a Letter from the now High Sheriff of your County, to recommend him to Colonel *Witenham* (late deceas'd) at *Castletown*: If he had been never so much my Chaplain, if he fail'd in the least part of that Duty he owes your Lordship, he should not have been own'd by, my very good Lord,

*To the Lord Bishop  
of Waterford.*

*Your Lordships, &c.*

*Barrimore.*

*A Letter from the Bishop of Waterford, to the  
Bishop of Kilmore touching Robert Young.*

My Lord,

Waterford, Octob. 11. 1680.

**I** Heartily thank your Lordship for communicating to me the enclos'd silly forg'd Certificate concerning Mr. Robert Young therein mention'd. This *Young* I never knew till about three years since, when he came to the Arch-Bishop of *Cashell* with a Letter of high recommendation from Dr. *Smith* to be Ordain'd Deacon. The Arch-Bishop being somewhat indispos'd, and not suspecting the Letter, writes to me that I would do that Office, and enclosed Dr. *Smith's* Letter to him therein. I knew the Arch-Bishops Hand, and his Secretaries Hand that transcrib'd the Letter: But *Young*, it seems, not contented therewith, breaks open the Letter by the way, and adds a silly Postscript (as near as I can remember) in these words, [*Moreover, Dear Brother, fail not to do this Office for Mr. Young, for he is a good Scholar, and moreover a very good Preacher.*] This Postscript gave me some suspicion; I charg'd him with it, but he stood stiffly to it a great while, That the Postscript was the Arch-Bishops as well as the Letter; but at length confess'd he had broke open the Letter by the way, and added the Postscript himself. Then I began to examin Dr. *Smith's* Letter, and went into my Study to compare it with some I had of Dr. *Smith's*, which I found to be nothing like, and charg'd him with that too; and after a little while, he confess'd he had brib'd a Kinsman of Dr. *Smith's* to Forge the Letter to the Arch-Bishop; whereupon I gave him a Reproof, and dismiss'd him from me *re infecta*. The next news that I heard of him, was, That he had Forg'd a Letter from the Archbishop of *Cashell* to the Bishop of *Killaloe*, to be Ordain'd Deacon, and thereupon he was Ordain'd. But how he came to be Ordain'd Priest by the Bishop of *Elphin*, I cannot give your Lordship any good Account; yet this I have heard, That whilst he was labouring his Ordination there, in few days, he was to have Married some poor Woman in those parts, had not some person of the Neighbourhood where he liv'd

liv'd here in *Munster*, being casually there, discover'd that he had a Wife and Children then living here in these parts. An account whereof, if occasion be, may easily be had. And now, my Lord, I have an humble and earnest request, That your Lordship would not return this Forg'd Testimonial to *Young*; but either destroy it your self, or send it by the next, to

*Your Lordships, &c.*

H. Waterford and Lisimore.

If *Young* be not free to part with his Testimonials and Letters of Orders too, ( if your Lordship think good ) I pray let him be secur'd, and in short time there will be enough to be said against him.

*A Postscript of a Letter, together with a Letter to the Lord Bishop of Kilmore, both from the Lord Bishop of Elphin, concerning Robert Young's having Counterfeited Priests Orders from his Lordship.*

*Elphin, Oct. 2. 1680.*

The enclos'd gives your Lordship an Account of Mr. R. *Young*, who was in an ill Name before he left us; and since it appeareth that he is *ἀποκλινόμενος*, fills his own hand, the Church can't do her self greater right, than to cast such unsavory Salt to the Dunghil.

*My Lord,*

**M**R. *Young*, alias *Hopkins*, coming into these Parts, and producing Letters of Orders from Dr. *Roan* Bishop of *Killaloe*, was by me admitted in writing under my own Hand and Seal, to serve a Cure in this Diocese; that wretched and unworthy Man was not by me Ordain'd Deacon or Presbyter: I had much rather have laid my Hands on Briars than on such



Heads. The enclos'd has been view'd by such as know his Hand, and compar'd, All conclude it a Forgery, the Instrument form'd by himself, the Registers Hand Counterfeited. How he should get my Seal I am not able to say, unless it was taken off the Licence I granted him; and of that there are strong presumptions. I shall acquaint those that knew him there, that he is now in safe Custody; and if he should escape without some Brand, his scandalous Crimes being divulg'd and spread abroad, it would tend to the great dishonour of God, and to the great discredit of our whole Profession. I shall not give your Lordship farther trouble, but shall beseech God to direct you herein; and likewise shall watch all opportunities to serve you, and approve myself

Your Lordships, &c.

Joh. Elphin.

### The Counterfeit Orders themselves.

**T**Enore presentium nos Johannes Providen' Divin' Elphin' Episcopus notum facimus universis quod nos Dei omnipotent' praesidio in Ecclesia Cathedr' Sanctae Mariae Elphinensis vigesimo sexto die mensis Novembr' Ann. Dom. millesimo sexcentesimo septuagesimo septimo, Sacrosanctos ordines Celebrantes, dilectum nobis in Christo Robertum Young, in Artibus Magistrum de virtute sua laudabili morumque & virtut' suarum donis nobis multipliciter commendat' & per nos etiam examinat' & approbat' & ad Sancta Dei Evangelia Primitus jurat' de Agnoscendo supremam Regiam Auctoritat' in omnibus causis tam Ecclesiasticis quam civilibus, & de recusando & Refut' omnes & singulas jurisdictiones forinsecas quascunque juxta form' Statut' hujus Regni in hujusmodi casu editi & provisi, manuali insuper subscriptione sua assensum & consensum suum praebentem quatuor primis Canonibus Ecclesiae Hiberniae editis Anno decimo Regis Caroli primi beatae memoriae, ad sacrum Presbyteratum ordinem juxta morem & ritus Ecclesiae Anglicae & Hibernicae editos & provisos, admisimus & promovimus: ipsumque Robertum Young in Presbyterum rite & Canonice ordinavimus tunc & ibidem. In cujus rei testimonium sigilli nostri Episcopale praesentibus apponi Fecimus & subscripsimus die mense & Anno & nostrae consecrat' An. undecimo.

Locus sigilli.

Joh. Elphinensis.

Thom. Bannester.

Registrarius.

Aprilis

Aprilis 22<sup>o</sup>. 1679.

*Exhibi<sup>t</sup> fuit hac licencia in ordinario visitationis cursu Reverend<sup>i</sup> Decan<sup>i</sup>  
de Lismore.*

Thom. Needham.  
Registrarius.

*Exhibi<sup>t</sup> in visitatione ordinaria ten<sup>t</sup> apud Cavan Septimo  
Aprilis 1680.*

I think my Reader will say I have given a sufficient Heap of Evidence concerning *Robert Young's* Life and Conversation in *Ireland*. And to prove that all these Allegations against him are undeniable (for I would not willingly bely *Robert Young* himself) I will briefly shew by what certain Means I came by my Intelligence.

Having, among other Papers sent me by Archbishop *Sancroft*, found the aforementioned Letter of *Dr. Foley's*, enclosing one from the Lord Archbishop of *Dublin*, I sent a Copy of it to that Excellent Person, my dear and honoured Friend, *Sir Charles Porter*, Lord Chancellor of that Kingdom; withal, intreating his Lordship to enquire a little farther into *Young's* Character there. Whereupon my Lord Chancellor took such care, that in a short time I had the Originals of all these

these Papers transmitted to me by the Favour of the Lord Archbishop of *Dublin*; together with a Letter from his Grace to my self, justifying them all to be Authentick, as may be seen in their Lordships own Letters, which I here subjoyn, as a Testimony of the great Obligations they have hereby laid on me, and Right they have done the World, in respect to *Robert Young*.

*Three Letters from my Lord Chancellor Porter to me.*

*My Good Lord,*

*Dublin, July 28. 1692.*

SO soon as I receiv'd your Lordships of the 11th, with the inclos'd from Dr. *Foley* to Archbishop *Sancroft*, and found my Lord Archbishop of *Dublin* was most likely to give me an account of the person you desir'd from Dr. *Foley*; I went to him, and told him what reason I had to enquire after one *Robert Young*; and desir'd he would give me some directions, how I might certainly know his Character. I did not shew him Dr. *Foley's* Letter; but he remembered him and his Rogueries so perfectly, that he gave me the same with what is in the Letter; and withal said, He did believe he could recover some Papers which would give me a full account of all that pass'd: And within a day or two after, he came to Dine with me, and brought them with him; which I now have in my Custody, and have perus'd. They are such as shew by his own Confession, as well as Proof, That he had two Wives at the same time in this Kingdom, for which he was in Goal; and I find by some of his Letters that he writes to his first Wife (wherein he owns his second Marriage) he desires her to save his



his Life, by Swearing he was never Married to her ; and promises, if she will do it, that he may gain his liberty, he will immediately go into *England* with her, and never more see his second Wife, who was the Daughter of one *Simon Hutt* in *Croan*. It appears by these Papers, that he Counterfeited the Hands and Seals of the Bishops of *Elphin* and *Waterford* to Letters of his Admission into Priests Orders, and the Hands of Dr *Wilson* (now Bishop of *Limerick*) and Dr. *Nicholson*, and the Archbishop of *Cashell*, all certifying in his behalf as to his Morals and Learning. In a word, I never met with so infamous a Villain. He was degraded by the Archbishop of *Dublin*, when Bishop of *Kilmore*. I know not how he got out of Goal where he was committed for having two Wives, the truth whereof appears by several Letters under his own Hand. But I will inform my self, and then give your Lordship an account. I know not whether you would have the Originals of all the Papers or Copies relating to this Rogue ; when I know your mind, I will take the best care I can to observe it. I am

He has counterfeited other Mens Hands in Bills, and got the Money thereupon ; one of which I find among the Papers.

Your Lordships, &c.

Charles Porter.

To the Lord Bishop of *Rocheſter*.

My Lord,

*Dublin August, 17. 1692.*

I Have yours of the 1<sup>th</sup> instant, and having shew'd it to my Lord Archbishop of *Dublin*, he has freely consented I shall transmit you the Original Papers ; which, as soon as I can, light of a safe hand to bring them to your Lordship, shall be done, they being now with a Publick Notary for Authentick Copies to be kept here. My Lord Archbishop has also writ your Lordship a Letter relating to the Man, and the Matters of those Papers, which he sent me just now. I will not be wanting in giving it all possible dispatch, that your Lordship may have

have opportunity to publish what you intend. I am, my Lord,

Your Lordships, &c.

To the Lord Bishop  
of Roch. ster.

Charles Porter.

My Lord,

Dublin, Aug. 26. 1692.

I Have now sent you the Original Papers about *Young*: Mr. *Roberts* has promis'd me to deliver them to your own Hands; he goes from this place to morrow. I have sent also my Lord Archbishop's Letter to your Lordship (of which I formerly sent you a Copy) in the same Box; and have caus'd a Publick Notary to make Copies of all those relating to *Young*, which I keep by me. As I must also desire your Lordship to do the Originals; for I have undertaken you will do so: And you will find by what his Grace writes, that he desires the same. I am

Your Lordships, &c.

Charles Porter.

*A Letter from my Lord Archbishop of Dublin  
to me.*

My Lord,

Dublin, Aug. 17. 1692.

BY permission of my Lord Chancellor, I had the view of your Lordships Letter to him concerning Mr. *R. Young*, whom I found employ'd as a Curate in the Diocese of *Kilmore*, when I serv'd there. He was delated to me for many extravagancies, the least of which was Marrying without Banns or License. Tho' after his avoidance, by running out of my Diocese, upon his apprehension in the Diocese of *Raphoe*, whether he had betaken himself, and was sent back to *Cavan* Goal by Warrant of the Justices, procur'd by *Simeon Hutt*, whose Daughter he had Married, and her Father had discover'd to be Married to another Woman then living; I took the advantage of using  
all

all the Force of the Canon in that Case, and degraded him, being then apprehensive of the Danger of his Hanging in his Gown. For this Crime he was indicted, but both the Women could not be brought together; and if they had, the then riding Judge (which, as I remember, was Mr. *Herbert*) declar'd the Fact within Benefit of Clergy: He was not sentenc'd, but left still in *Cavan* Gaol for Fees and Debts contracted there; where *Simeon Hutt*, an Inn-Keeper and Inhabitant there, by his Interest and proper concern, found means of Intercepting, and getting into his Hands some of the Letters of his own Hand-writing, and brought them to me. The other which are written to me are all Realities, and his pretended Orders I receiv'd of himself before he run away. But, my Lord, as I was saying, He was left in Gaol, and not knowing how to get out, he used means of applying to my Lord Duke of *Ormond*, then Lord Lieutenant, Pretending he could make notable Discoveries of dangerous Plots against the Government. The Popish Plot was then on foot, and his Grace, as imported, very tender and cautious of discountenancing his offer'd Service, gave him his Liberty, and order'd him to come up to *Dublin*, and make out what he could. The Scotchman had his End, never appear'd, but run away into *England* with his second Wife, and I never heard of him till this Overture with your Lordship. I did indeed write to Dr. *Foley*, then in *England*, to make some Inquiry after him, and to give notice of him, that there was such a Privateer abroad, and to obviate, as much as I could, the evil Practices of so vile a Man, and the Dishonour of the Church he pretended to. It is certain he Stole into Deacons Orders unobserv'd; he Forg'd his Priests Orders, and was Self-ordain'd. He was extremely vicious, and had Ignorance and Impudence enough to offer at any thing. Much of his Story (it is so long since 1680) is out of my Head, and I wonder how these Papers now sent to your Lordship, escap'd the general Plunder I underwent, when all my Books and Papers were utterly lost for ever. I can't otherwise account for their Preservation, than that they were all tyed together and thrown into a Box of loose and useless Letters, which they, who took the rest of my Goods, neglected, because they had store of better things: And conse-



quently were preserv'd by a Servant of mine ; and by a very casual View, since my return out of *England*, after the late general Dispersion, came into my Hands as I left them, utterly beyond any Purpose or Design of mine. However, it fell out happily enough, if your Lordship can make any use of them, for the Vindication of any honest and innocent Person, or the Detection of a notorious Villain. I beg your Lordship would let me know by some means or other, that you receiv'd them, and that you will preserve them, for if they be any way available to your Lordship, they may be so (though that be, as this was, more than I can possibly fore-think) to some body else. I am,

*To the Lord Bishop  
of Rochester:*

*My Lord,*

*Your Lordships, &c.*

Francis Dublin.

I have now brought the true *Robert Young* and his false Wife safe into *England* ; though I confess I had rather any Man in *England* had done it than my self. But now they are here I will proceed with them in the very same plain and just Method, as I did before in relating their Actions in *Ireland* ; I will trace out their crooked Paths as near as I can, step by step, and follow them close at their Backs with an honest Hue-and-Cry of Original Papers, describing them and their Crimes.

I have

I have already declared, That after their arrival in *England* about the year 1683, upon *Robert Young's* unlucky Repulse at *Lambeth*, one of the most memorable Enterprizes in which he and his Woman displayed their Art, Was the taking upon them the Names, first of *Green*, then of *Jones*, then of *Smith*, (all Counterfeits of Clergymen in distress,) and then authorizing the whole Cheat by Forg'd Recommendations of Archbishop *Sancroft's*: Beginning thus to practice on other Men's Purses by Forging his Grace's Hand, that when they were more perfect in it, they might attempt with it to strike at his Life.

I begin, first, with their Cheating Dealings under the Name of *Green*; which was the first considerable Figure, I know of, that they made of themselves in *England*.

By this having deluded vast numbers of good People in several Dioceses, especially that of *Norwich*; (whereof I have by me a large List of the Parochial Collections) they came at last, as I have said, to be Detected and Punished for it at *Bury*.

Now to clear up this part of their History which concluded there, it will be very mate-

rial that I should recount distinctly the occasion and manner of their being Apprehended, and some of *Roberts* most notorious Enormities, even whilst he was Imprison'd in that Gaol, which was for about the space of a Year.

When *Robert* and *Mary* brought the Recommendation, Falsified under the Hands of the Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and the Lord Bishop of *London*, to Mr. *Clegatt* Minister of that Town; and boldly required him to ask the Charity of the Inhabitants thereupon; both Mr. *Clegatt*, and Mr. *Samuel Batteley*, a very worthy Person dwelling there, (whose Brother was then the Archbishop's Chaplain,) soon discerned the Knavery, and immediately repaired to the Magistrate's for a Warrant to seize them.

In the mean time *Robert Young*, alias *Youngs*, alias *Hutt*, alias *Green*, suspecting he was discovered, went directly to his Inn, and with his Sister and Wife Mrs. *Mary Green*, alias *Young*, &c. presently took Horse, and rode as fast as they could out of Town, in hopes to have escaped.

Mr.



Mr. *Batteley* believing they would do so, left the Constable to bring the Warrant, and ran straight towards the Inn to look after them; when he soon perceived them on Horse-back, making all possible speed away. But by good luck, their Horse being weak and poor, he overtook them, laid hold on the Bridle, and led them back. Whereupon they were Committed, Tried, and upon their own Confession Condemn'd and Pillory'd; as by the Record will appear when it shall be produc'd.

After this, *Robert* -- what shall I call him? remain'd in *Bury Gaol* divers Months for not paying his Fees, till the Summer of the Year 1685. That being the First Year of King *James's* Reign, and about the time of the Duke of *Monmouth's* Invasion, he thought it a proper Season for him to declare, (as he had done before in *Ireland* upon the like Exigency of his Affairs,) that he could make out a certain Discovery of Seditious and Treasonable Practises, wherein divers considerable Persons thereabouts were engaged.

To this purpose he not only actually swore Treason against one *John Pannel*, (to whom he owed a spite, who was then a Fel-

Fellow-Prisoner with him for Debt, and is now an Officer in the said Borough,) but also sent up a Petition, which he call'd, *A Full Discovery of Treason by Robert Youngs Clerk*, to be deliver'd to the King and Parliament then Sitting; wherein he offered to prove, (if he might have his Freedom, and be brought up to London,) *That divers Wicked Traytors in that Country, particularly ten Presbyterian Ministers, one Lord, two Esquires, a Colonel, a Captain, a Cornet, and a Gentleman, had been long Plotting and Contriving the Death of the King, and the Subversion of the Government.*

But of his whole Behaviour at Bury, the following Papers, being of undoubted Authority, are an abundant Proof. It will be enough for me to name them as they pass along by me.

Only here I intreat my Reader once for all to observe what is most for my purpose, That such has been the constant Method of his Life both before and since, as far as I have been able to obtain any Knowledge of it: Whenever he was out of Prison, he has forged Hands to Bills, and Recommendations to get Mony: And when he happen'd to be Imprison'd for those  
For-

Forgeries, then he has fallen to counterfeit mighty Discoveries of Plots against the State, to gain his Liberty.

First then here are the several Confessions of *Robert Young* and *Mary Hutt* themselves before the Justices of the Peace at *Bury*, in 1684.

*Number I.*

*Borough of Bury  
St. Edmund.*

*The Information of Mary Green, alias Hutt, alias Peirson, alias Young; taken by Martin Spensley Esq; Mayor of the said Borough; Thomas Holland Esq; John Sotheby Esq; and Robert Sharp Gent. Justices of the Peace for the said Borough, the 15th Day of September, 1684.*

**T**HE said Informant saith, that the Paper and Seal thereunto annexed, pretended to be a Certificate from the Bishop of Elphin in Ireland, was counterfeited in Ireland, and brought over from thence by her in April or May last; and that she neither hath, or ever had any Husband called by the Name of Robert Green; but that all in the same Certificate mention'd concerning him is Counterfeit; and that the Person, who is now in her Company, came with her out of Ireland, and that he is her Brother, and his Name is Robert Hutt; and that they came together to London, where in the Square at Essex-Stairs, she met with one, whose Name she doth not now remember, that writ the Petition which she carried to Windsor, and with her own Hands presented it to the King, who deliver'd it back to one Mr. Bolstred, without any further Answer to it. Whereupon she repaired to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and shew'd him her Counterfeit Certificate from the Bishop of Elphin; and he having view'd it, recommended it to Sir John Nicholas, to whom she repaired accordingly, and shew'd him the Petition which she had deliver'd to his Majesty, and left it with him; and afterwards (as he told this Informant) he carried the same to his Majesty at Hampton-Court; and that, it being read, because it concerned Ireland, the King recommended it to the Duke of Ormond, and afterwards this



this Informant had the Answer to it from him, mentioned in the Paper, to which Sir John Nicholas's Name is subscribed. And further saith, That the Paper to which the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Bishop of London's Hands and Seals are set, is also Counterfeit, and was written by another Person, whose Name she remembreth not; and that the same Person did set the Archbishop and Bishop of London's Hands and Seals to it: And saith, that by Vertue of the said Paper and Seals, she and her Brother have gathered a great deal of Money, and thereby abused many of the King's Subjects.

Mary Hutt.

The Information of the said Robert Hutt, taken before us the Day and Year abovesaid.

WHO saith, that the said Mary Hutt (who goes by the Names aforesaid) is his Sister; and that he never knew any Person by the Name of Green or Young that was her Husband. But says, That he living in or about Cork in Ireland, and she in Conaught, above an hundred Miles distant, in March last she came to this Informant's House, and told him, That she had been married to one Green a Clergy-man; and that he going to Sea, was taken by the Turks, and she was going to London to Petition his Majesty for Money for his Release; and that she had a Certificate from the Bishop of the Diocese, of the Truth thereof; and thereupon desired this Informant to go along with her, and pressed him so hard therein, that at last he left his own Occasions with a Friend, and went with her to London, by the Name of Green, and knew no other Name she had; and at London carried her to one William Young's a Drummer, living in Petty-France beyond Westminster, near the Sign of Whitehall, where they stayed all the time they were about London; and during that time she went to Windsor to Petition his Majesty; and finding no Satisfaction there, she applied her self to the Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop of London, Sir John Nicholas, and others, as in her said Information is set down. But saith, that he knew nothing, how she came by the said Certificates and Papers, or who drew her Petitions, he knows not. But saith, that upon and with them, he hath gone about the Country with her, and hath collected several Sums of Money in several Countries in the Papers thereof mentioned: He not knowing but that all her Papers and Certificates were true.

Martin Spensley,  
Mayor,

Robert Hutt.

The

The further Information and Examination of the said  
*Robert Hutt*, taken the Day and Year abovesaid.

**T**HE said Examinee saith, that his Name is Robert Young, not Hutt, and that the said Mary is his Wife; and that they came out of Ireland at the same time aforesaid; and that he is in Priests Orders according to the Church of England, and received the same from Dr. Roan Bishop of Killaloe in Ireland, and had a Cure of 18 l. per Annum at Calthorn there; and that he hath preached in St. Margarets Church in Westminster, and confesseth that all the Papers and Certificates aforesaid, are Counterfeit, and were made by one

\* Wright, a Scrivener in Oxford; and he set the Hands and Seals to them, except that from the Bishop of Elphin in Ireland, which is signed by Thomas Bannister, and was made by him; and he obtained the Bishop's Seal to it, for which he had 10 s. And further, That about two years since he was in England, and apply'd himself to the Archbishop of Canterbury for some Preferment, and Din'd with him; but finding none, he returned into Ireland; and being destitute of Friends, he apply'd himself to this ill Course presuming thereby to obtain Charity from the People. And further saith, that the said Wright set Sir John Nicholas's Hand in Answer to the Petition to the King; and for that, and for setting the Hands of the Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop of London, he had a Guinea.

\* I am certainly informed, that there never was one Wright, Scrivener in Oxford; so that he has abused the Name of Wright, as he has done that of Green, Jones, Smith, and divers others.

Thom. Holland.  
John Sotheby.  
Rob Sharp.

Robert Young, Clerk.

Secondly, Here are Copies of *Mary Hutt's* Petition to King *Charles* the Second, under the feigned Name of *Mary Green*; and of the Forged Reference and Recommendations upon it.

*Numb. II.* To the King's most Excellent Majesty, and the Right Honorable Lords of His Majesty's most Honorable Privy Council.

The Humble Petition of *Mary Green*, Wife of *Robert Green*, of the Kingdom of *Ireland* :

Most Humbly Sheweth,

*THAT* your Petitioners said Husband being minded to take a Voyage into the West-Indies, upon some extraordinary Occasions, it was his hard Fortune to be taken by a Sally Man of War about six Months since, as may appear by a Certificate under the Hand and Seal of the Right Reverend Father in God, the Lord Bishop of Elphin, in the Kingdom of Ireland ; and that he still remains under the extream Burthen of Slavery in Sally ; his Ransom being set at a thousand Dollars ; which your Petitioner, in regard of her great Poverty, is no ways able to raise ; she having two small Children, being with Child of a Third, hath not wherewith to provide for her self and them, but is like to perish for want of Relief.

Your Petitioner therefore most humbly Prays, that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to recommend your Petitioner's and her Husband's distressed Condition to the Consideration of the Clergy of England ; and in his Behalf, to request them to Contribute their Charity toward her Husband's Ransom, and your Petitioner's present Relief.

And your Petitioner shall ever Pray, &c.

Read in Council, Jun. 18, 1684.

*THE* Petitioner is referred to his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Bishop of London, to do therein, as to them shall seem meet and convenient, for the Redemption of this said Robert Green, Clerk.

John Nicholas,

W<sup>r</sup> E



*WE* recommend the Petitioner to the Clergy of (provided this our Order continue no longer than three Months) England, intreating them freely to Contribute their Charity toward the Ransome of the said Robert Green. Moreover, (on his Majesty's Command to us) We require, and earnestly desire the respectives Ministers of all Cities, Towns, &c. to go from House to House, to receive the charitable Benevolence of well disposed Christians, whom we hope will likewise contribute to the Enlargement of a poor distressed Clergy-man.

Given under our Hand and Seal at Lambeth-House, Jun. 16. 1684.

W. Cant. here ☉ the Seal.

H. London here ☉ the Seal.

Numb. III. Robert Young's *Petition to the Magistrates at Bury, acknowledging his Crime.*

To the Worshipful Mayor, and the rest of the Justices for the Borough of *Bury St. Edmonds.*

The Humble Petition of *Robert Youngs Clerk :*

Sheweth,

*THAT* the Petitioner being not only sensible (as 'tis apparent) of his bidding adieu to all Truth and Honesty, and measuring the same by his own humorsome Fancy, making every thing ridiculous that was not suitable to his owne ignorant Conceptions; but penitent likewise, thinking himself bound (for the future) to take a Notice, that Honesty is the best Policy.

Forasmuch therefore, as your poor Suppliant being a Stranger, and such to most in this Kingdom, and having little or no Friends or Acquaintance, Humbly beseecheth,

That your Worshipes will be graciously pleased to accept of such Baile, as your poor Suppliant can conveniently produce, whereby he may not in a Goal be compelled to end his Days, but have his Liberty to compose those Differences now depending. The Lord create in your Worshipes Bowels of Compassion towards him, who prays for,

Your, &c.

N 2

Ne 4

Next here is *Robert Young's* First Letter to the Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury* in 1684, Confessing his Crime of Forgery, but in all else giving a very Lying account of himself. A Letter very singular for the Elegancy of its Style ; And Recommended to the Reading of all who call themselves Presbyterians.

*Numb. IV.*

*May it please your Grace,*

Bury, Sept. 30. 1684.

**T**HIS rude and imperfect Supplication, being now to pass into your Graces Hands, shal I be so bold as to begg your Grace to peruse it: In prosecution whereof I do conceive my Birth and Education, wil in your Grace create a better understanding of me, my Life and Conversation ; than that which the Envyous Man really represents it to be: For Envy is ever working upon some or other ; for which cause it is the proper attribute of the Devill ; who is called the Envious Man that soweth Tares amongst the Wheat by Night. But to return, your poor Suppliant is (by Birth) an Englishman, Born of an honest Stock at *Chester*, (a Town of Marchandize on the Sea-Coast of *England*) whose Grandfather was *Sir Peter Young's* Son, and Grandmother the Duke of *Lenox's* Daughter ; the Truth whereof (if question'd) may sufficiently (by a Gentleman in *London*) be prov'd: Knowing some Persons to delight in Giddiness, and accounts it a Bondage to fix a Belief, affecting Freewill in Thinking as well as in Doing. Your poor Suppliant likewise (after some knowledge in Schoole Learning) was remov'd to *Trinity Colledge* near *Dublin* ; where (in good Litterature) he for the space of 7 years remain'd : And from thence, by the Instigation of *Dr. Smith*, (Dean of *Limrick*) was employed as a Reader ; which Duty by me was faithfully perform'd for the space of 2 years, being then only a Deacon. From thence (by the Death of the said *Dr. Smith*) removed I was to serve *Dr. John Wilson's* Cure, (sometime Fellow of *St. Magdalene Colledge* in *Oxford*, who as Chaplain to his Grace my Lord Duke of *Ormond*, came for *Ireland*) on which Provision (tho' inconsiderable) admitted I was into full Orders by the late Bishop of *Clogher* ; who was a Man of that Divine Nature, that all that knew him had a loss of him : The very Memory of whom may justly draw a Fountain of Water from mine Eyes : His favour to me ward cannot easily be forgotten. Thus (in short) your Grace has a Description

tion of my Birth, Education, Life, and Conversation, which leads me to Expostulate my present Sufferings : I am, and ever was, a Faithfull Son of the Church of *England*. All Discantors were ever odious in mine Eyes, 'specially that Damnable Faction of Presbytery. If I could (as well as others) have wink'd at their irregular Undertakings, Poverty and Bondage would not now have Dominion over me. But my Method was to reduce such Faction's Persons to a regular Understanding, and observe wherein, and how far they have degenerated, altho' others Gleanings I confess are better than my Vintage, as I am the least of the Tribe : Yet I cannot sit still, but (if occasion offer'd it self) would once more adventure to cast in my Mite against such Heresy as those Gifted Persons pretended to. But knowing to whom I speak, I must not hold your Grace too long to peruse this ignorant Discourse, lest I give Offence. Lastly, to make an Ingenious Confession, your poor Suppliant in the aforesaid Cure (tho' insufficient if narrowly consider'd to maintain a Family) continued without Scandal and Corruption for the space of 4 years; but by the insufficiency thereof (being but 18 *l. per Annum*) was forced to Borrow Money, which Summ at the day prefix'd I could not disburse : whereupon they Issued out Writs against me : But I considering Fortune to be like the Markett, where if a Man stay a little, the price will fall. Thus I thought it better to meet some danger half way, than to keep too long a Watch upon my Enemies approach : For if a Man watch too long, (as my case stood) tho' he commit the beginnings thereof to *Argos* with his 100 Eyes, and the ends to *Briareus* with his 100 Hands, tis odds he will fall asleep : So that I thought it my best way (for a time) to remove my Self and Family to prevent future Inconveniences. Whereupon I with a Discontented Heart came for *England* ; and (if your Grace call to mind) made to you my Application ; willing was I to take up with the least Provision ; But no vacancy in your Graces Diocese was the Answer ; and withal told me, that my Lord of *London* possibly might Answer my Request. Whereupon I strait way attended my Lord of *London*, but no Satisfactory Answer could I find there. On which, what to do I knew nor, but the second time waited on your Grace, and gave up my Lord of *London's* Answer ; and withal told your Grace, that willing I was to go for the *West Indias*. Your Graces Answer was, That Provisions there lay in my Lord of *London*, but being destitute of Money and Friends, disabled I was to get thither, unless I had Sold my self for a Bond Slave, which I was not willing to do. So that for *Ireland* I again repair'd, but no sooner was I well there settled, in a Cure far remote from the other, but News my Creditors had ; for which (without my Selary) glad was I to flee again in a distracted Condition ; and came (accompanied with my Wife) to Ox-

ford,



ford, where Friendship I did endeavour to create, but all in vain. From thence went I towards *Bristol*, thinking to have made my Address to the Bishop of that Diocese, but supplanted I was by his Death. So that my self I applied to the Body of the Clergy, but meet not with a satisfactory Answer; my second Application was to desire them to disburse Money for our Fraught; but meeting not with my desired success I came away not knowing which way to turn my self; to go and Steal I would be Hang'd; to take by violence a Purse I would be in the same Condition; to Work I knew not which way; to Begg of the Clergy (to many Cheats going about) I knew (being a Stranger) they would (tho' undeserv'd then) pass on me the same Sentence. Thus Friendless and Moneyless we came to *Oxford* in a sad Condition, and accidentally meet with one *Wright* by Surname; who (after some days acquaintance) put me upon this Hellish Stratageme upon your Grace, which Forgery he committed, altho' I am not thereby excus'd. Truly a terrour to my Conscience was it every hower, knowing such Clandestine Actions to be both against the Laws of God and Man. O fie! that ever it should be said that a Clergyman have committed such dirty Actions. O that my Eyes were a Fountain of Water to Weep for Remission, for Pardon, for Satisfaction, both to God and Man. For sure I am the unjust shal be punish'd in the next World, if not in this. I acknowledge my Crime to be great, the Lord give a right Understanding of my Errour; wherein I have offended both God and Man: And what shal I do or what shal I say to mitigate this Crime? Tis true, I am heartily sorry, which perhaps (in your Grace) may create Mercy; but not Pardon from my God, without a Loathing and Hearty Detestation of such unlawfull ways of Gain, and an Absolution from a Bishop. Truly my Intention (after the Receipt of 20 l.) was for the *West Indies*; No more did I desire than what would carry my Family thither: But disappointed I was by the just Judgement of the Almighty: All we receiv'd was spent to recover my Wifes Health; Seaven Weeks did she lye Sick, which the Justices here are not Ignorant of; and what little stock we had was exhausted, so that we have neither Friends nor Money. Your poor Suppliant therefore in most humble manner Beseecheth, that your Grace will be graciously pleas'd to Regulate the Hearts and Minds of these Justices, who have Committed my poor Sickly Wife as well as my self; and (by your Graces Letter) to animate their Hearts to Charity, the Sessions being Monday next. Tis true, I have in a most gross manner incurr'd your Graces Displeasure, and does not deserve the least Favour, specially at your Graces Hands; for which from the bottom of my Heart I humbly beg your Graces Pardon, Beseeching your Grace in Justice to remember Mercy; and tho' your Grace may cast a severe

vere Eye upon the Example, yet I humbly Beseech your Grace to cast a merciful Eye upon the Person, to whom this shal for ever be a warning piece, and subscribes him self,

Your Graces,

most Penitent

and Obedient Servant

Robert Young.

My Reader finds that this First Letter of *Robert Young's* to Archbishop *Sancroft*; which seems so full of Remorse and Solemn Detestation of his former Wickedness, in Forging his Graces Name, was dated in Prison at *Bury*, Sept. 30. 1684. but to shew what kind of Penitent he was, I will here subjoyn the Informations of divers Persons at *Bury* in 1685 touching *Robert Young's* Threatnings against the Archbishop of *Canterbury's* Life, not long after he had written this first Letter.

Numb. V.

*Bury St. Edmunds*, Mart. 27, 1685.

Memorandum, That we whose Names are under-written, being in Company with *Robert Young*, (who was laid in *Bury Gaol* for Contemning his Grace the Archbishop of *Canterbury's* Hind and Seal, &c.) he spake these Words immediately upon hearing of his late Majesties Death, which was Saturday, February 7. 84. [Is the King Dead? Then hark at the Archbishop of *Canterbury's* Head.] These Words were spoken in his Chamber in my Hearing.

Witness my Hand.

Thomas Boume

The

*THE same Day in the Cellar, the said Robert Young declared, that now the King was dead, he would have the Archbishop of Canterbury's Head off. Witness our Hands*

John Pannell.

Matthew † Baxter.  
his Mark.

*AND at other times, in my hearing, and others that are now out of Town, the said Robert Young declared, That if ever he got out of Prison, he would revenge himself on his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.*

John Pannell.

*AT another time, some two or three days before, the said Robert Young, upon hearing of his Majesty's Death, did, in the hearing of me John Rewle, in the said Young's Chamber in Bury-Prison, say these Words: [Some of my Enemies may repent what they have done to me: It will not be long e're the Archbishop of Canterbury's Head be off.]*

John Rewle.

*WILLIAM Rose, of Elmſwel, in the County of Suffolk, Yeoman, saith, That Robert Young, a Prisoner in Bury-Gaol, upon hearing of his late Majesty's Death, did publickly say these Words following, viz. Now by God have at the Archbishop of Canterbury's Head. And that at several times he hath discovered himself to bear Hatred against his Grace, and hath often spoken reproachfully against his Grace.*

William Rose.

Sixthly, Here is Robert Young's Second Letter to the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury; confessing still his own Guilt, but intended chiefly to weaken the Evidence of John Pannell, one of those Bury Witnesses, by accusing him of Treason.



Numb. VI.

Bury, July, 23, 85.

*May it please your Grace,*

**I**N the first place, all that I design in this Letter, is an Apology for my self, to ask Pardon for my Transgression against your Grace, (although deluded thereto) hoping that this my mean and weak Supplication will be sheltered under the Canopy of your profound Charity. And seeing I have (by wicked Advice) consented to things misbecoming an honest Man, most Reverend Father, let not my Honesty be tainted therewith, but evil Counsell justly blamed; which for ever hereafter shall be a warning Piece to me, never to commit the like again; but by honest and Christian Endeavours, to provide for himself and Family, whose Conditions are now reduc'd so low, that perish they must, unless by your Graces Clemency ealed. Furthermore, I do promise to do your Grace that Justice, as to bring in the first Actours and Contrivers of that wicked Action, who did not only incourage me, but several Imposthims they likewise have sent abroad, which I can prove. Having thus far declared my self, and endeavoured to take off such Aspersions as might possibly have been thrown on me; give me leave to \*acquaint your Grace, that I am given to understand, that one John Pannel have lately sent your Grace a Petition, intreating you to incense the Judge that comes this Circuit against me; which Petition I humbly desire, and beseech you (for your Honour) to disregard. For that Person is a rebellious Traytor, and have declared himself so to be; his Words and intended Actions are in breve, as followeth. He called the King a Popish Dog, a Rogue, and said that he has taken that which was none of his own, but the Duke of Monmouth's; he has said likewise, that he would do his Endeavour to chop off that Popish Rogue's Head. *Si indixeris mihi ut singula dilatem, non recusabo; modo tempus mihi concesseris: nam statim hoc facere, non est harum, quoad Corpus, Virium: paratus semper dicere, qui sunt subditi probati & qui non.* My Lord, I thought fit thus to \*acquaint your Grace, that you may not so much as mention his Name with any due Respect; his factious Ancestors will make him notorious enough, if no Treason were objected and laid to his Charge. But seeing what I have in part \*acquainted your Grace with, will next Assizes be sworn against him by three Evidences, and the King likewise \*acquainted therewith; and the said John Pannell a great Finatick. I humbly have sent your Grace (out of that Love and Affection I bear to my King, and to the Clergy) this Caution of the said John Pannell. So I take leave, desiring to remain

*Your Graces most Humble Servant,*Robert Youngs.  
Seventhly,

Seventhly, Here is the true Hand and Seal of Archbishop *Sancroft*, which *Robert Young* having torn off from a real Instrument of his Graces that he had casually lighted on, prefix'd a false Licence to it to Beg in three other Diocesess; and that dated even after the former Letters to the Archbishop, and after he had been Pillory'd at *Bury* for the First Forgery.

Numb. VII.

*WE recommend the Petitioner to the Diocesse of Oxford, Lincoln and Sarum, humbly beseeching the Clergy of all Cities and Corporations within the aforesaid Diocesses) to go from House to House to receive the Benevolence of all Charitable Christians, towards the Relief of a poor distressed Clergy man.*

Given under our Hand and Seal, at Lambeth-House, Jan. 2. Ann. Dom. 1685.

*Locus Sigilli.*

W. Cant.

Two Papers relating to a false Plot in King *James's* time, which *Robert Young* offer'd to discover at *Bury*, when he was Prisoner there in the year 1685. Both which Papers are Written with his own Hand, and were taken out of his Pocket when he was search'd for Instruments, wherewith he design'd to break Prison there.

The

The First Paper, which seems to be a Letter to some Lord at Court concerning Robert Young's Plot in 1685, but is not Super-scribed.

Numb. VIII.

May it please your Lordship,

Bury-Goale June 13. 85.

Altho' I have been, and also am unwilling to trouble you with my Letters, yet notwithstanding the treacherous Speeches and intended Actions of wicked Rebels, forceth me thereunto at Present. I lately a Petition to the King and Parliament sent, which Petition (declaring in part the Purport of what I have to say) I humbly beseech your Lordship, for the Love of a gracious King, to take care of, and so far, that King and Parliament may therewith be acquainted. Nothing is therein delivered, but what I by sufficient Evidence can make appear to be Truth: Justice will in no wise for the King here be done; the Reasons, when removed, I'll produce, but here I dare not; I humbly desier, before his Royal Majesty, and his high honorable Court of Parliament, to be, as soon as may be, called up, where with Justice, and not with Partiality, I may be heard to speak.

[And here follows some of his former sort of Latin, which I set down as I find it in his own Hand.]

*De his rebus omnibus obsecro & suppliciter imploro te mihi rescribere litteram, inquā & indiceris mihi ut singula delatam non recusabo, paratus semper ostendere, qui sunt probati, subditi & qui non. Nihil jam superest aliud scribendum, nisi quod supplex orem ut omnes actiones secundat Deus optimus maximusque. Et ex toto Corde Vale.*

Ex Carcere 13<sup>o</sup> die mensis,  
Junij Ann. Dom. 85.

Tuæ salutis & amplitudinis,  
Cupidissimus, &c. R. Y.



The Second Paper, which is the Original Petition that *Robert Young* sent up to be presented to the King and Parliament, in *May 1685.* wherein he Promises to make out the discovery of his Plot, if he might have his Liberty, and be brought up to *London* to be the King's Evidence. This is also Recommended to the Reading, of the Presbyterians.

*A full Discovery of Treason by Robert Youngs, Clerk.*

To the most High and Mighty Prince, *James* the Second, by the Grace of God, King of *Great Brittain, France and Ireland,* Defender of the Faith, &c. and to His most Honourable and High Court of Parliament.

The Humble Petition of *Robert Youngs,* Clerk, now a Prisoner in *Bury St. Edmunds,* in the County of *Suffolk.*

In most humble and lamentable wise complaineth unto Your Majesty and Your High Court of Parliament;

**T**HAT whereas your most obedient Subjecte, living under the Laws of God and Your Majesty's Realms, in the Days of the late gratius King *Charles the Second,* of ever blessed Memory, did in all things show himself a  
true.

true, faithful, and obedient Subject, according to his Function, as well as in the sincere Administration (according to the Church of England) of Gods holy Word, as in due Obedience to the higher Powers. Your said Suppliant, notwithstanding, contrary to all Laws of Justice and Equity, was notwithstanding, in very extream manner, not on'y cast into Prison (where he, being altogether a Stranger, have these eight Months by past continued) but likewise (last Assizes nothing being objected against him) bound over to his good Behaviour, where he will (through Malice, and for fear of discovering their rebellious and clandestine Actions) perish inevitably; for such is the Malignity of your Majesties Enemies against your poor Subject, that they keep him close lock't up, not suffering his Wife to come to him, giving Order likewise, that all Pen, Ink and Paper should not be permitted to be carried to him, least he make Complaint. And the more Severity they show, because Your obedient Subject did discover one John Pannel, who like a Rebel and a Traiter, did call Your Sacred Majesty a Popish Dog and Rogue; and said, that he, against Your Sacred Majesty, would fight for the Duke of Monmouth so long as he had Blud in his Body. Moreover, Feb. 7, 84. about three of Clock the in Afternoon, he swore, That now he would accomplish his long design'd and intended Purpose. Now, said he, (News being brought a little before that the late King was really dead) I will have that Popish Rogues Head, &c. Now by the Discovery hereof, your poor Subject have to himself Enemies innumerable created, and yet will (so long as Life continues) stand firm and unshaken, notwithstanding all the vain Attempts and impetuous Assaults made against him, by such Men as are given to Change, and have always discovered a greater Regard to their own treacherous and Rebellious Spirits; than to that Duty and Legality which they owe unto Your most Sacred Majesty. All these things, and much more shal against John Pannel, and others (whom to discover here, were to no purpose) be confirmed by three Witnesses. Many are the Conspiracies and Conspirators, who have plotted and contrived how to bring their wicked Enterprizes to an Head. In order hereunto (as in Conscience obliged, and as a faithful Subject to Your Majesty) can, and will make a full Discovery of Ten Presbyterian Ministers, One Lord, Two Esquires, A Collonel, A Captain, A Cornet, A Gentlemen, who having long since Plotted and Contrived the Death of Your most Sacred Majesty, and the Subversion of the Government now established among us, and still continues their Hellish Devices, who (if in time not prevented) will (with a sad Memento) make known what Your faithful Subject doth now in part relate, they having promised, sworn, and protested, that if ever Your Majesty came to the Crown, enjoy it you should not one Year to an end. Such Evidence against them singularly shall be produced, as to the Consciences of all loving Subjects shall seem reasonable and sufficient; and if Your poor Subject does not prove by sufficient Evidence what he now affirms, Your said Subject offers himself then to the most heavy Punishment that it shall please Your Majesty to appoint.

In

In Consideration whereof, may it please Your most Sacred Majesty and this Your High Court of Parliament, graciously to take the Premises so far into Your tender Consideration, as to call up to London before Your Princely Majesty Your poor Subject, who will in full discover all those *Claudestine Actions* and *Hellish Stratagems* of *Rebellious* and *Treacherous* *Rebels*, who intends no Goodnesse towards Your Royal Person, whom God preserve, &c. which thing being granted, Your said Subject doubts not but that it shall plainly appear de unde by sufficient Evidence) who are Faithful Subjects and who not. Wherefore for the tender Mercy of God, Your said Subject in Bonds and Irons, most humbly Beseecheth Your Majesty and this High Court of Parliament, Benignly and Graciously to grant this Petition, tending so Graciously to the Preservation of Your Majesty and the Government now Establish'd amongst us, &c.

And Your Petitioner as in Duty bound will ever Pray, &c.

In this last, and in several of the foregoing Papers, my Reader finds mention of one *John Pannell*. Upon this there depends a Story which must not be omitted, because it is sent me from *Bury*, Attested under Hand and Seal by Persons of known Credit and Repute: And with this I shall end all *Robert Young's* Transactions at *Bury*.

It appears, that this *John Pannell* had not only fallen into *Robert Young's* Displeasure by his having been one of the Witnesses of his Menaces against the Archbishop's Life, but also for having prevented *Robert's* design'd escape out of the Common Gaol there.

*Robert Young* in Revenge of all this, not only wrote to the Archbishop against him in the venemous manner as appears in his second Letter



Letter to his Grace, *That there should be High-Treason Sworn against the said John the next Assizes*, and not only also nam'd him as Guilty in the foregoing Petition to the King and Parliament, mentioning in both the particular Treasons, but effectually made good his word; And the very next Assizes at *Ipswich*, for the County of *Suffolk* in the same year 1685, Prosecuted *John Pannell* for his Life before the Lord Chief Justice *Jones*.

Nay, when it was objected by the Judge that this was but a single Witness, *Robert* immediately took care to supply that defect, and out of hand produc'd *Mary* to Swear the very same Words, and the very same Time and Place, as her Foreman had Sworn before her.

So that had not the Lord Chief Justice been seasonably inform'd of the profligate Reputation of *Robert* and *Mary*; and had not the Deputy Gaoler of *Bury* profer'd voluntary to take his Oath, That *Mary* was really absent from *Robert*, and had been so for a good space, both before and after the time; when the Treasonable Words were pretended by *Robert* to have been spoken by *John Pannell*, the poor innocent Man had been

been in danger of being Hang'd for a Traytor to King *James*, by the Perjury of these two wretched Gaol-Birds.

But thus much for *Robert* and *Mary Green*.

Next we shall behold the same Farce acted over again by the same Persons, under the disguised Names of *Robert* and *Mary Jones*; *John* and *Mary Smith*: She the Wives of him the Rectors of the same *Ashford* in *Kent*, and both at the same time.

Nay (to shew how necessary it is that great Lyars should have great Memories) we shall see, that two of these pretended Recommendations from Archbishop *Sancroft*, do very Unhappily bear date the very same day, *September* the 3d, of the very same year 1687, for the same Woman, under different Names.

First here are the Forged Recommendations, pretended to be from Archbishop *Sancroft*, of *Mary Hutt*, both as *Mary Jones*, and *Mary Smith*, to the Lords Bishops of *Chichester*, *Normich*, and *St. Asaph*: The Body of these Letters being an Imitation of his Graces own Hand, but all the Subscriptions Counterfeited to Admiration.

( 104 )

freedome, as we in our Dioceſſe have done: And likewiſe give his  
Wife (who will ſuddenly attend your Lordſhip) Licence to Ask and  
Numb. I. Receive the Charity of your Dean and Chapter. I am,

My Lord,

THIS is to acquaint your Lordſhip, that one Mr. Robert Jones, Rector  
of Aſſford in my Dioceſſe, is a Priſoner for Debt, occaſioned by  
Suretyſhip; He is a Perſon well known to me, and deſerves our Aſſiſt-  
ance. I hope you will therefore give his Wife (who will ſuddenly  
attend your Lordſhip) Licence to Ask and Receive the Charity of your  
Dean and Chapter towards her Huſbands Freedome, as we in our  
Dioceſſe have done. I am,

Lambeth

Your Loving Friend and Brother,

June 11.

1687.

To the Lord Biſhop of Chicheſter.

My Lord,

THIS is to acquaint your Lordſhip, That one Mr. John Smith, Rector  
of Aſſford in my Dioceſſe, is a Priſoner for Debt, occaſion'd by  
Suretyſhip; He is a Perſon well known to me, and deſerves our  
Aſſiſtance. I hope you will therefore (as others of our Brethren have  
done) extend your Charity towards his Freedome; and likewiſe Re-  
commend his Diſtreſſed Condition to your Dean and Chapter, or in  
his abſence to the Subdean; I am,

Lambeth

My Lord,

Sept. 3.

1687.

Your Loving Friend and Brother,

To the Lord Biſhop of Norwich.

II. Wm. Cant.

My Lord,

THIS is to acquaint your Lordſhip, that one Mr. Robert Jones, Rector  
of Aſſford in my Dioceſſe, is a Priſoner for Debt, occaſion'd by  
Suretyſhip; He is a Perſon well known to me, and deſerves our Aſſiſt-  
ance. I hope you will therefore extend your Charity toward his

P

Free-



Freedom, as we in our *Diocese* have done : And likewise give his Wife (who will suddenly attend your Lordship) Licence to Ask and Receive the Charity of your Dean and Chapter. I am,

My Lord,

*Lambeth,*

Sept. 3.

1687.

Your Loving Friend and Brother,

W. Cant.

This Letter was Seal'd with a Bishops Seal and a Wafer ; and the Stamp under-mark'd on the back of it, to signifie what part of the Town it came from.

To the Lord Bishop of St. Asaph.

(IV)

Secondly, Here is a Forged Letter from Dr. *Fauconberge*, Secretary to my Lord Archbishop, accompanying that Letter to the Lord Bishop of *Normich* ; wherein is a false List of what Sums other Churches and Church-Men had given, to excite his Lordship and his Church and Diocese by those Examples.

Numb. II.

May it please your Lordship,

Sept. 3. 87.

I Am Commanded by my Lords Grace of Canterbury to send this as a Cover to the enclosed ; and to let your Lordship know, that Mr. *Robert Smith* (Brother to the Prisoner) is appointed as the Receiver. Therefore your Lordship is humbly desir'd, to transmit, By Bill of Exchang, your Lordships Charity, together with the Dean's and Chapters

Charters to the aforesaid Robert Smith, living in Maiden-lane in West-  
minster, and to keep as your Lordship possibly can

Your Lordships, &c.

Hon. Fauconberge.

*I am likewise Commanded to Transmit you the  
Names of those that have already given.*

Lord Archbishop of Canterbury	20	00	00
Dean and Chapter of Canterbury	45	00	00
Bishop of London	10	00	00
Bishop of Ely	10	00	00
Dean and Chapter of Ely	8	00	00
Bishop of Rochester	4	00	00
Dean and Chapter thereof	7	00	00
Bishop of Winchester	12	00	00
Dean and Chapter thereof	9	00	00
By the Bishop of Sarum	5	00	00
Dean and Chapter thereof	12	00	00
Bishop of Exeter	4	00	00
Dean and Chapter thereof	5	00	00
Bishop of Exon	4	00	00
Dean and Chapter of Exon	10	00	00
Bishop of Bath and Wells	5	00	00
Dean and Chapter thereof	5	00	00
University of Oxford	25	00	00

Thirdly, Here are the Letters of those  
Three Bishops Written at that time, acknow-  
ledging that they were every one Deceiv'd  
by an Imposture so well managed; Tho'  
they were some of the Archbishops most Fa-

miliar Friends, and perfectly acquainted with  
his Graces Hand.

Numb. III.

My Lord please your Grace

I Have receiv'd the Letter which came to me in your Graces  
Name on the behalf of Mr. Jones, pretended to be of your  
Diocese; and now find enough in it to have made me suspect  
the Cheat; But your Graces Name, (too well Counterfeited)  
and the great Deference I make to it, superseded all further  
Consideration. And altho' I communicated it to the Dean and  
Chapter, (who are not unacquainted with your Graces Hand)  
yet none of them saw through it. It is much to be fear'd, that  
the Cheat is still carried on, and too successfully: For he must  
be more Sagacious than I am, whom such a Letter coming by  
the Post, then followed within two or three days by the  
Woman her self, would not impose upon. After all, I am  
much more concerned for the Abuse that is put upon your  
Grace, than for that little which I suffer'd by it; and heartily  
wish the Cheat detected and discovered, that your Grace's  
Name may be no longer Prostituted to so vile a purpose,  
whilst so great a Veneration is paid to it by all good Men. I am,

My Lord,

Your Graces, &c.

To my Lord Archbishop

of Canterbury's Grace.

John Cicestr.

Three Bishops Written at that time  
Wrote to please your Grace, Norwich, Sep. 29. 1697

IN Pursuance of the enclosed Recommendation, I applied my  
self to Mr. Dean and the Prebends of this Church for their  
Charity towards the Relief of Mr. John Smith, Rector of  
Ashford



*Ashford* in your Graces Diocese, as the letter sets forth. Mr. Dean, and the Prebends, allotted Five pound to Mr. *Smith*, which Sum, with my own Mite, would have made up 10 l. and this Sum was to be paid by Mr. Dean at his arrival in *London*; and of this I gave a hint to Dr. *Paman* in my Letter to him: But since we learn from the *Gazette*, That the whole Contrivance was a Cheat and a Forgery; and for the further discovery of it, I have sent the enclos'd to your Grace. I am

Your Graces, &c.

To my Lord Archbishop of  
Canterbury his Grace.

William Norwich.

May it please your Grace.

Sept. 6. 87.

I Have receiv'd your Grace's Letter of the 3<sup>d</sup> instant by this Post; the effect of it is to bespeak the Charity of this Church for one Mr. *Robert Jones*, Rector of *Ashford*, who is a Prisoner on the account of Suretyship; the Cause for which he suffers, does not at all commend his Suit; but that which follows does very much: That he is known to your Grace; and that you judge him to be one that deserves our assistance: On that account he shall have it from me in such proportion, as your Grace shall think fit; and of that your Grace shall judge at my coming up to *London*, which will be about six weeks hence, if God permit; or if you will not judge, I will Tax my self as I would do any other Man in my Condition, and so much beyond, as I ought to be stricter to my self than any other. I am, my good Lord,

To my Lord Archbishop of  
Canterbury his Grace.

Your Graces, &c.

Will. Asaph.

Information which enabled me to Trace them

My most Honoured Lord,

Sept. 13. 87.

I Send your Grace here enclos'd, that piece of Forgery which came this day Sennight, as a Letter from your Grace. I saw your Name to it so well Counterfeited, that I did not examine the Hand in the rest of the Letter; nor took notice of the false spelling in the word *acquaint*, and twice *Diceffe*; which I should have boggled at otherwise. But your Name which I doubted not to be of your Grace's own Hand, was enough to assure me the whole Letter was yours. And whether you writ it in hast, or had an *Amanuensis* to write it, I was not curious to examine; or whether it was Forg'd, which I now understand was the case. The Woman Rogue, by whom, or for whom it was Forg'd, having thus made ready the bait, and hang'd me upon it, came and drew up her Line the next day; There she had 5*l.* upon her Hook; and with it she got a Subscription into her Paper, which she carried forward to *Banger*; and there, I doubt not, having baited the Water with a Letter from your Grace, and having a Subscription to second it, she hook'd as much more between the Bishop and the Dean. I am, My Good Lord,

To my Lord Archbishop of  
Canterbury his Grace.

Your Graces, &c.

Will. Afaph.

Having now followed *Robert Young*, and his pretended Wife to the end of the first great turn of their Affairs in *England*, it is but reasonable, that I should use the same exactness as I have done in that part of their Story which was acted in *Ireland*, that I should declare by what means I have had the certain Information, which enabled me to Trace them

them so narrowly also in this part of their Adventures.

It was soon after my Deliverance from them on *June* the 13th, that I desired Mr. *Needham* Chaplain to Archbishop *Sancroft*, to let him know what danger he had escap'd, together with my self and others. Immediately thereupon his Grace gave him notice of his own former Rencounters with the same *Robert Young*: And withal order'd him to let me have a sight of most of the foregoing Papers.

Having perus'd them, and perceiving they would effectually contribute to the farther Confusion of the Wretch, I entreated his Grace to resign them to my disposal, and to recollect what he could farther remember on this Subject.

To which Request I received these following Answers from that excellent Prelate: Whose Name alone would be sufficient Authority in Matters of far greater Concernment than this; there being no good Man that I know of, who has him not in the highest Esteem for his Integrity and Piety.



## A Letter from Archbishop Sancroft to Met:

Dated, July 13, 1692.

My Good Lord and Brother

Fresingfield, July 13.

I Have just now receiv'd yours, of July the 9th, and having read it over, immediately take up my Pen to tell you, That in Compliance with your earnest Desires, I give up, and consign into your Lordship's Hands, all the Papers concerning Young the *Falsary*, which I sent to Mr. Needham, to be made use of, and disposed, as your Lordship, in your Discretion, shall think fit; with this Caution notwithstanding; That, whereas there are amongst them some Letters of my old dear Friends, Bishop Lloyd of *Norwich*, and Bishop Lloyd of *St. Asaph* (who are both at present, in or about *London*) no use be made of them, without their Privy, nor any further then they shall Allow.

As for the Narrative you desire, you shall certainly have it, as well as my old leaking Memory will enable me to form it: But though I must take the Longer time for that; yet because you tell me you long (with some Impatience) for my Answer to the rest; I have hasten'd to give it (and my kindest Regards) with that Readiness and Heartiness, which becomes,

My Lord,

For the Lord Bishop  
of Rochester.

Your Lordship's, &amp;c.

## A Second Letter from Archbishop Sancroft to me. Dated Aug. 24, 1692.

My Lord,

I Remember well what I wrote to you in a former Letter, concerning the Narrative you desir'd, of what past heretofore between me and *Robert Young*. But when I sat down to make

make it, I found two things lying directly in my way. First, I was credibly informed, that you had wholly laid by your design; and Secondly, Many years having past since those things happen'd, and I having lately only cursorily read over the Papers I sent you; my memory did not serve me (with out them) to judge where they were defective, or how any incoherence in them might be supplied.

But now that I am assur'd, That you are (in good earnest) going on with what you intended; and understand what are the particulars that remain still obscure to you in those Papers; I will not only endeavour to clear those, but the rest of the Story as far as I can remember it.

He was twice with me at *Lambeth*; the first time (within a Month after he was degraded at *Dublin*) to desire some employment in the Church; in order to which, he produc'd Letters of Orders, which I very much suspected. For besides that they were not (as I remember) in Form, and in the usual Style; there was fix'd to them, with a Label, a great Episcopal Seal, such as we put to our Leases; which, upon my objecting it, he affirm'd to be the Custome of the Bishops in *Ireland*. And when I told him I had no Employment void in my Gift, he was very earnest with me to recommend him to the Bishop of *London*; with a design, I suppose, that he might have a Copy to write by in his intended Forgeries: but I refused.

Some time after he came again (since when I never saw him) to desire me to recommend him to be a Chaplain to a Ship, or in some of the Plantations; which I again refus'd (for in truth I never liked him from the beginning) telling him, That it was a part of the Bishop of *London's* Province.

In the mean time, having acquaintance with Dr. *Foley* (the Archbishop of *Dublin's* Chaplain) who was then in *England*; I sent to him for some better information concerning this importunate bold Man; which produc'd those Letters which are in your Hands.

About this time he sent his Woman to *Windsor*, with a Petition to the King, pretending that her Husband going to be Minister at one of the Foreign Plantations, was taken by the *Turkish* Pirates; and begging a share in the Mony Collected

for the Redemption of Captives. His Majesty referr'd the Petition to me and my Lord of *London*; which yet I never saw nor heard of till a good while after. In the meanwhile they had Forg'd a Report upon the Reference, under both our Hands and Seals, to bring them into a share of the Redemption-Money.

By this time, or before, he had gotten (I know not how) one of those Instruments by which we grant Places in our Hospitals of *Croydon* and *Canterbury*; They are written in an expanded Sheet of Paper, with a Margin broad enough to receive the Seal which we use on those occasions; and which was usually placed about the middle of the Instrument: This Margin he tore off, with my Subscription under it, finding room enough above it to croud in a Licence to beg in three Diocesess, which I wonder any Man should take to be mine; both because I had upon all occasions refused to give (even worthy persons) Licence to Beg; and because I could not (mean as I am) be reasonably thought so silly, as to bespeak three Diocesess in so wretched a Stile, and in such a wretched scroll of Paper.

However, this gross Sham, (improbable as it was) prevailed with many of my Friends, and he drained a great deal of Money from them, till some one (I have forgot who) seiz'd that miserab'e, pitiful, slip of torn Paper, (the most contemptible, that ever had the Impudence to set up for a *Metropolitcal* Rescript, since the Order came first into the World) and sent it to me, which was the first notice I ever had of his Practises.

After this, for several years I heard not one Word of *Robert Young*, nor knew what was become of him; till at length, enter Mrs. *Jones*, (in truth, as it prov'd *Young's* Wife, or worse) pretending to be the Wife of a *Clergyman* in my Diocese, then a Prisoner for a vast Debt, carrying in her hand a Letter of mine, (wholly forg'd) to desire the Contributions of the *Bishops* and *Clergy* for his Enlargement. I knew I had no such Clerk in *Kent*, and though she chang'd the Name to *Smith* (I think) of *Ashford* in *Kent*, yet still about she went with Forg'd Letters, applying her self to my particular Friends, who, with their *Clergy*, were very bountiful to her. When I had notice



notice of it, I disavow'd the Letters, as I had reason, there being manifest Characters of Forgery upon them; and sent to the Bishop of *St. Asaph* to lay hold of her, and send her up to *London*; but she escap'd us.

Whilst she was at Work so far off, *Young* himself was playing the like pranks in my Native Country, where he got a great deal of Money; but coming to *Bury St. Edmonds*, *Dr. Battely's* Brother (a Magistrate there) observing his Impudence, sent for a *Constable*, and brought him (and his Quean, who by this time was come to him) before the *Recorder*, &c. by whom, upon Examination, they were Imprison'd there. You have the Copies of the Examinations, and his Original Letters and Confessions to me; and also Copies of the Informations against him, that he Swore in Prison he would have my Blood; but how he got out of Prison, (unless it were because no body Prosecuted him) *Dr. Battely* can better inform you than I, to whom therefore I refer you.

*My Lord*, thus far I have gone, out of my desire to serve you, and shall be ready in any particular to give satisfaction, as my old weak Memory will enable me; for I confess, I most earnestly long to see this foul Impostor Detected, and Right done to so many Innocent Persons, whose Ruin he hath sought in the basest manner. I am, *My Lord*,

*Fresingfield, Aug.*

24. 1692.

Your Lordships, &c.

To the Lord Bishop of *Rocheſter*.

As far as my Intelligence goes, the only Punishment which the Authors of all these last gross Cheats, sustained after they had found them so long a time successful, was, that they were pursued through *England* by

these two Advertisements in the printed Gazettes of the Year 1687.

Advertisement in the Gazette, Sept. 22. 1687.

*Whereas a Woman, pretending to be the Wife of R. Jones, Rector of Ashford in Kent, hath gone about England and Wales, begging the Charity of several Persons, for the Relief of her said Husband, whom she pretended to be in Prison for Debt; and hath both Forg'd several Letters, as from his Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury to several Bishops, and received several Sums of Money. These are to give notice, that there is no such Person as R. Jones Rector of Ashford, and that his Grace never wrote any such Letters. It is therefore desired, that if the said Woman can be met with, she be apprehended and dealt with according to Law.*

Advertisement in the Gazette. Oct. 6. 1687.

*Whereas a Woman, pretending to be the Wife of R. Jones, Vicar of Ashford in Kent, and now in Prison for Debt; and one who calls himself Smith, and pretends also to be Vicar of Ashford, have forged several Letters as from the Archbishop of Canterbury, and begging up and down in several Parts of England and Wales, have received several Sums of Money. These are to give notice, that neither of these Men is Vicar of Ashford, and that the Archbishop never wrote any such Letters. It is therefore desired, that if the said Persons can be met with, they be apprehended, and be dealt with according to Law.*

But how they got clear of this ill Affair, whether they suffered any Corporal Punishment for their going under the Names of Jones and Smith, as they had done for those of Green, I am not yet certainly informed. For the present, I am rather inclined to believe that they escap'd unpunished, because the meek Archbishop Sancroft would not permit them.

them to be Prosecuted in his Name; for which they have since well rewarded him.

But this I only speak upon Conjecture; and the Truth is, it is impossible that the World should ever have an exact Account of Mr. *Robert Young's* whole Life, unless he himself would be pleased to write the Counterpart of his Story.

But it was not long after this, that *Robert Young* and *Mary* took the short Turn they had at *Bromely*; which was indeed so short, that they were vanished thence before I knew of their being there. Only as to the Man's ill Character, during that time, and his frequent Boasting of his Abilities in Forgery, I am furnished by a worthy Gentleman my Neighbour, with the ensuing Certificate.

*These are to certify, that during the short time of Mr. Robert Youngs officiating at Bromley-College, which, as I remember, was about six Weeks, he went under an ill Character of his wicked Living; particularly, I have heard him brag, before Mr. Roman and others, that he could counterfeit any Mans Hand in England.*

*Witness my Hand the 1st of September, 1692.*

Walsingham King.

Now because this is the proper Place, I have here ready for my Reader (as I promised him) the entire Letter which *Robert Young* wrote.



wrote out of *Newgate* to the Widows of the College at *Bromley*; whereof I cited before some honest Truths, and quaint Expressions.

*Madam,*

**B**Egging your Pardon for this my rude Attempt, I humbly crave Leave thus to set forth my present miserable Condition unto you, and all the rest of the worthy Gentlewomen belonging to that Colledge, to whom, I hope, you will communicate this. I have been almost twelve Months a Prisoner, confin'd, destitute of Friends, Money, &c. so that it hath been purely the Providence of God that hath hitherto supported me. I thank God, my Confinement was not occasion'd either by Murder or Felony, or any ill Thing; but an Irishman (whom I pray God forgive) swore against me, that by Vertue of Bills, I raised Money for the Use of King *James*. Now, to make you sensible that I never acted any such thing, and that those things which were laid to my Charge were as false as Hell; you may remember, that during my Abode among you, and amidst the worst of Times, I was one who stood up for the Vindication of the Church of *England*, and altogether against the Roman Catholicks; whereas, if I had not a Member of the Church of *England* been, then was the Time (when Authority was on my Side) to lift up my Head: yet at the same time (as you can all bear me Witness) I stood in the Gap against their Doctrine and clandestine Actions. All which, methinks, is sufficiently demonstrable, that they have laid to my Charge, things that I know not of: Yet for the same, a Fine was laid upon me, under which I now labour, to the great Disquiet of my Soul, and the Starving of my Natural Body; which, if not supported, wil suddenly (being not able to subsist any longer) be transformed into its first Matter. May it therefore please you, and all the vertuous Gentlewomen of that Colledge, so far to cast a compassionate Eye on my most miserable and despicable Condition, as to extend your charitable Benevolence toward my Enlargement here hence, and send it me this Week by a trusty Hand. The Reason why I begg it this Week, is because I have employed one to remove me to the *Kings-Bench*, where I expect my Freedom, and in the mean time, some Employ wherby to keep Body and Soul together; but if continued here, I shal perish out of pure Want. Therefore I hope you will putt on Bowels which are Human, and lend your helping Hand to a fallen Brother. I pray God incline  
your

your Hearts to do things for Gods Glory, and the Good of the Church : and I begg leave to remain,

Your most humble Servant,  
and affectionate Brother in the Lord,

Robert Young

My most humble Service to you all in general, whom I pray God keep and support now and for ever.

I have lately given me 30 s. toward my Removal to the Kings Bench, but it will cost 4 l.

Direct for me at the Masters Side Debtors in Newgate, London.

For Mrs. Young, or Mrs. Craige, Widows, or any other Widows of the Collidge in *Bremley* in *Kent*.

I am now attending *Robert Young* in his next Stages to *St. Albans* and *Lichfield*, where he managed his Business for a time without *Mary Hutt*, and sometime in Confort with her, and both times like himself.

The Season indeed of his coming to, and acting in these Places, was, of all others, most proper to conceal the Impudent Knaveries he practised there, and in the Parts thereabout ; it being towards the latter end of the Year 1688, and the beginning of 1689, the very time when all Mens Minds were amus'd with greater Matters, and intent upon the Revolution of the Government which happen'd during that Interval. For as it is usually found

found that the little mean Thieves and Pick-Purses are wont to have the greatest Harvest in Places where there is the greatest Bustle and Croud, and where they find most Quarrels and Frays : So this great Rogue could not wish for a fitter Occasion to scape unperceived in his Cheats, than when there was such an universal Combustion in all Parts of the Nation, and when Men were generally more solicitous to save their Lives than their Pockets.

And accordingly he made use of this Opportunity, both at *St. Albans* and *Lichfield*, to the best Advantage for his Designs. So that I find a world of new Matter rising up before me ; both that City, and that Town, and all those Countries resounding to this day with the Noise of his, and his pretended Wives Forgeries, and other their lewd Pranks.

But out of meer Compassion to my Reader, and indeed Weariness in my self, I will reduce into as narrow a Compass as I can, that Part of their History, which else perhaps would have prov'd more copious than any of the rest.

It may therefore suffice, that I only give some few undoubted Proofs to justify what  
I have



I have already affirmed of his Behaviour at *St. Albans*, and at *Lichfield*. First, Here are two Letters to give an Account of his general Conversation at *Lichfield*, and then several other Letters and Informations concerning the notorious Forgeries which he practised on *Mr. Clark* of *Northampton*, *Mr. Mathew* of *Daventry*, and *Mr. Olds* of *Coventry*; and also the Depositions of *Robert Young's* own Servant, and *Mary Young* her self at *Lichfield*. And lastly, the forged Bills and Letters of Advice, by which they accomplished all these Cheats.

First, A Letter to me concerning *Robert Young's* Life, during his Stay at *Lichfield*, from a Reverend Clergy-man of that Cathedral.

My Lord,

Lichfield, July 23, 1692.

I Received this Morning your Lordships of the 20th instant, and have here enclosed as much as the shortness of time would permit, of *Young's* Carriage in this Place. I shall be glad if this may help to clear the Innocent, and detect the the fraud of Villains.

*Robert Young*, who pretended to be an Irish Clergy-man, and to have good Church Preferment in *Ireland*, and a considerable Temporal Estate, lived for some time in *Lichfield*, and lodged with one *Moreton* who kept a publick House.

During his being here he was observ'd to have store of Gold and Silver, and some Plate.

He kept his Man and two Horses, and rode often abroad; but as many observed, more like an Highway-man than a Divine.

R

vine.

vine. Before he left this place, he went to Lodge at a private House, where the Gentlewoman's Maid was Debauch'd, and some say by him.

He made Love to a Gentleman's Daughter in *Tamworth*, and in all likelihood had Married her, if a Woman had not come hither whom he own'd to be his Wife.

'Tis said, he would have given his Man Money to have Kill'd this Woman whom he own'd to be his Wife, which when the Man refus'd to do, he attempted to Kill him.

He was Arrested here first for Debt, and after for taking Bills of Exchange out of the Mail, and from this Prison was remov'd to *Newgate*. There is one Mr. *Mathew* at *Derby*, who (as I hear) can give more account of *Young's* Rogueries. I am,

Your Lordships, &c.

L. A.

*Secondly*, The Substance of a Letter to Sir R. R. from a Person of Worth and Credit at *Lichfield*, to the same purpose as the former.

S I R,

I Have made the utmost Inquiry I can into *Young's* Behaviour while he was at *Lichfield*, which was not above a Quarter of a Year, or thereabout. When he came first hither, he was very full of Money and Plate; pretended to be a Dean in *Ireland*, and to have a plentiful Estate there, and to have brought the Money and Plate thence. So soon as he became a little Acquainted, he began to inquire out for a fit Person to make him a Wife, and presently fell in League with a Woman at *Tamworth*, (who was to have 1000*l.* to her Portion) and had prevail'd with her to Marry him, as he himself boasted. But while it was *in fieri*, there came a Woman hither, who said she was

was his Wife, and who, doubtless, was so; and the Villain (as his Man reported) would have hired him to have Kill'd her, and upon his refusal endeavour'd to Kill him. Before he came to *Lichfield*, it seems he had been for some time at *St. Albans*, where, by Courting the Post-Masters Daughter, he obtain'd the Priviledge of looking into the Packers, and by that means got divers Letters into his Custody, which had Bills for Return of Money enclos'd in them; with which he Posted his Wife to *London*, who there receiv'd a good part of the Money. This we know by the Relation of Mr. *Olds*, a Mercer in *Coventry*, and of another Mercer in *Daventry*. The former of which coming hither, and surprizing him while he had Money and Plate left, got as much in Value as satisfied his Bill. And the latter, being sent hither by him, in two or three days after, seiz'd his Person, and got him Committed to the Town-Goal, and thence remov'd him to *London*, where he was Tryed and Convicted of these, and some other such Roguish Practises, and Pillory'd for them. Sir, I am, &c.

*Thirdly*, A Letter to me from Mr. *Allestree* Minister of *Daventry*, touching *Robert Young's* Demeanor at *Lichfield*, and particularly his Forging Bills of Exchange, under the Names of Mr. *Olds*, and Mr. *Mathew*.

My Lord,

*Daventry*, Sept. 20. 1692.

I Have in Obedience to your Lordships desires, inquired concerning the Villanies that *Robert Young* has perpetrated here, and made this place the Stage thereof; and I am furnish'd with such unquestionable Intelligence, and such abundance of Matter of this kind, that does sufficiently discover the Disposition of the Man, and the Praviry of his Mind, that he is prepar'd by Nature, Custom, or Indigence, for any sort of Wickedness: So that knowing certainly the many Cheats he has Acted here, and in our Neighbourhood, without Compaunction



or Remorse, it is no wonder to me, that by degrees he is risen at last to attempt the Life of others, by the Trade of Forgery, and Swearing Men into Treasonable Acts and Associations.

About the latter end of the year 1688, we were alarm'd with the News of a Notorious Cheat that had been practis'd upon Mr. *Shipton* in *Fridley-street*, by a Villain who had Forg'd the Hand of Mr. Justice *Mathew*, of this Town, and Copied his Letters so exactly, that he himself could not discover the difference by the strokes of the Pen, or disown the Writing upon view, but only by being Conscious to himself that he had never Written, or Set his Hand to any Paper of that moment and importance; so that Mr. *Shipton*, who was his Correspondent in *London*, was easily impos'd upon by the similitude of Hands, and paid 200 *l.* upon a pretended Bill drawn upon him from Mr. *Mathew*. When the following Post gave notice of the Payment of the Money, and also of the Order that was followed therein, all endeavours were speedily us'd to Apprehend and Discover the Impostor, and many Journies were undertaken into several Countries, in pursuit of him; but all Inquiry and Search for the detection of the Theft, and of the Author, were fruitless and unsuccessful, till it happen'd, after some considerable distance of time, that the News of this Cheat spreading far and wide, one Mr. *Olds* of *Coventry*, sent Word to Mr. *Mathew*, that he had been formerly Cheated of 14 *l.* that he had discover'd the Rogue that had Forg'd his Hand, and that he had given him satisfaction for his Money. He did not know but this might be the Man that had put the like Trick upon him in a greater Sum, and referr'd it to his Consideration, whether it would be worth his while to go so far as *Lichfield*. for Enquiry and Satisfaction. It will not be improper in this place, my Lord, to trace things from the beginning, and Examine how Mr. *Olds* came by this Intelligence, that help'd him to the recovery of his Money; the Cheat that was put upon him was of an Ancient standing, and he had been along time under the fence of the loss of his Money, without any expectation ever to retrieve it. Now this *Young*, who had practis'd these Rogueries upon him, and divers others, and by these Frauds had lin'd his Pockets with a competent Sum, both of Gold and

and Silver, repairs to *Lichfield* in a decent Habit; pretends himself an *Irish* Protestant and Refugee, one that was Persecuted for Righteousness, and had lost all for the sake of the Gospel. The Dean and Prebendaries believe him, and receive him with a great deal of Civility, Charity, and Humanity, permitting him to Preach in their several Courses, that so their Benevolence to him might be greater, and seem like an Act of Justice, and the Discharging of a Debt.

In this Pomp, with all manner of Accommodation, he resides along time among them at *Lichfield*, and follows the Sports that were suitable to the Season, whilst his Wife, by his Instructions, is carrying on her usual Cheats at *London*. Now having represented himself a Batchelor, he made his Court to a young Woman, and had advanced far in her Esteem; but the Detection of his Rogueries broke off the Intreague. For his Wife sending him word that she was coming down to him, he went forth one Morning with his Servant (who carried his Gun after him) a Shooting, and there proposed to him the Killing of her, offering him a great Reward for his Pains. But the Motion being rejected with Abhorrence, he threatened to be revenged of him, and cut his Throat.

The Man believing his Master was very serious in his threatenings, and that he would accomplish his Malice, when privacy and Night favour'd him, run away from his Service; and knowing the Cheat, that had been acted upon Mr. *Olds*, repair'd as fast as he was able, to *Coventry*, to give him notice of it; and he accordingly went down to *Lichfield*, Charg'd Mr. *Young* with the Forgery, who rather than he would hazard the losing of his Credit and his Station with the Prebends, gave him satisfaction immediately.

And now, my Lord, I am arriv'd at the point of time, which made way for the Discovery of Mr. *Mathew's* Cheat; the account of which I will choose to give you in his own Words, and insert in the body of this Letter.

"About the latter end of *February* 1688. one *Mary Young* had  
 "a Bill of Nine Pound on Mr. *Shipton*, which said Sum she received the 4th of *March* following of him, at the Seven Stars  
 "in *Fryday-street*. On the 19th, and on the 21st of the said *March*  
 "both my Letters of Cash concerns were Opened, Transcribed,  
 and

"and Counterfeited; and advice given of a 200*l.* Bill, which  
 "was also Counterfeited; upon which Mr. *Shipton* paid to the  
 "said *Mary Young* 20*cl.* the 22*th* of *March* following. *Robert*  
 "*Young* lay at *St. Albans*, as was supposed, and by corrupting  
 "the Postmaster there, had opportunity of Counterfeiting my  
 "Letters: Some time after, the said *Mary Young* was taken at the  
 "Maiden-head and Three Kings in *Cheapside*, with a Counterfeit  
 "Bill on Mr. *Billers*, pretended to be drawn by Mr. *Joseph Olds*  
 "of *Coventry*: She was then charg'd with the Cheat she had put  
 "upon Mr. *Shipton*, and was committed to *Woodstreet Counter*,  
 "from whence she remov'd her self to the *King's Bench* in *South-*  
 "*mark*, and, when the Fire broke out there, made her Escape.  
 "About the 10*th* of *December* following I heard of their being  
 "at *Lichfield*, and immediately went down Post, came thither  
 "about 12 at Night, and in the Morning beset the House where  
 "*Robert Young* Lodg'd; and after above an Hours search, found him  
 "in the Cellar hidden under a stack of Furze. At his first ap-  
 "prehension he own'd the Cheat, and offered his Globes and  
 "Books for Satisfaction; but they being Refus'd, he denied all.  
 "His Wife also said before the Magistrate, that was the first time  
 "that ever he had seen her, tho' his Servant swore that they had  
 "liv'd Years together, and that she had born him several Chil-  
 "dren. From *Lichfield* they were brought to *London*, and tryed  
 "the 15*th* of *January* 1689, where, upon full Evidence they  
 "were found Guilty of Cheating and Forgery; and were Sen-  
 "tenc'd to stand in the Pillory in *Cheapside*, and at the *Royal-*  
 "*Exchange*, and Fin'd an 100 Marks; the First day of the Term  
 "following to stand in the Pillory in *Westminster*, and fined an  
 "100 Marks more; His Wife the same Punishment, but her fine  
 "was but 20 Marks.

My Lord, I should be very glad, &c. as being

Your Lordships, &c.

Charles Allestree.

Fourthly,



Fourthly, A Letter from Mr. Mathew, a Justice of the Peace, confirming the former Relation as to his Part in it.

*Mr. Allestree,*

I Have given my Lord Bishop of *Rochester* as full an Account of that Rascal *Young*, as time will permit; But if required, can get more particulars against him from *Northampton* and *Coventry*. I shall be very glad if I can be instrumental to Clear my Lord from the Imputation this Villain has laid him under. Knowing how ready a great part of the World is to speak Evil (especially of their Sort) of Dignities. Pray when you write to his Lordship, assure him that I am

*Daventry, Sept.*

12. 1692.

His Lordships, &c.

*Benj. Mathew.*

Fifthly, The Information of *Joseph Olds* of *Coventry* Mercer.

THE said Informant maketh Oath, that Mr. Robert Young, the Person now present, having cheated and defrauded him of a considerable Sum of Money (viz. in May or June 1683, by receipt of 10 l. part of a forged Bill of Exchange of 100 l. pretended to be drawn by this Deponent upon Mr. John Billers, of London; and in August last, by Receipt of 34 l. 10 s. surreptitiously received by the said Mr. Young, or Order, by intercepting two Bills of Exchange, one drawn upon Mr. Wootton in the Strand, for 20 l. and the other upon Joseph Toovey Cheesmonger, for 14 l. 10 s.) The said Mr. Olds did take out a Capias out of the Court of Record in the City of Lichfield, and the said Mr. Young being privy to it, owned the Fraud, and made him Satisfaction thereof; and drew a Letter or Note, importing an Order, directed, as this Deponent remembers, to his Wife, and thereby required her to pay a certain Number of Pieces of Gold, to the Value of about 7 l. and that the Woman now present, Mary Young, did, pursuant thereto, bring the Number of Pieces of Gold, and delivered.

delivered them to the said Mr. Young, and that the said Mr. Young delivered them to this Deponent. This Deponent further saith, That Mr. Billers (this Deponents Correspondent at London) in his Letter to him, informed this Deponent, that he had received his Letter, or rather a Copy of it, with the Advice of drawing a Bill upon him for Payment of 200 l. at sight, to Sarah Harris, which Money he had not paid, but that the Person that brought it was secured, and proved to be the same that cheated Mr. Shipton of 200 l. under the Name of Mary Young, or Words to that effect,

Capr. apud civit. Lichfield super  
Sacram. præd' Josephi Olds,  
9<sup>o</sup> die Decembr. 1689,  
coram

Joseph Olds.

Thom. Marshall.

Will. Marshall.

City of } Sixthly, The Examination and  
Lichfield. ss. } Confession of Mary, the Wife of  
Robert Young Clerk, late of Wapping, near the Eremitage-Stairs, at the Sign of the Tobacco-Press. Taken the 9th Day of December, 1689.

THE said Examinee upon Oath saith, that she was married by Dean Dixy in Ireland, at County Cavan, to the said Robert Young about nine years, in July last; and that the said Mr. Young then kept a Grammar-School there; and saith, that he was Benefic'd under the Bishop of Kilmore's Chaplain, Mr. Crew in Ireland, and had thereby 30 l. per Annum. That she hath had five Children by him, and that they are all dead. That she did go by Order from her Husband, the said Robert Young, with a Bill upon Mr. Richard Shipton, a Linnex-Draper at the Seven Stars in Fryday-Street, London, and drawn in the Name of Mr. Mathew of Daventry for 200 l. and did thereupon demand, and receive the said 200 l. from the said Mr. Shipton, about February, March, or April last, which Bill was delivered her by her said Husband, and the Money to him delivered by her. That her Husband told her, he gave the Post-Master of St. Albans

bans ten or fifteen Guinea's to open the Pacquet, and to take out some Letters. But the Truth of this she knows not otherwise than by the Information of the said Robert Young her Husband. That her Husband and she came out of Ireland in May was twelve Months; but whether he was, or is in Holy Orders, she knows not, but believes he is: and says, that her Maiden Name was Mary Hutt, of County Cavan aforesaid.

Capt. apud Civit. Lichfield, 9 die  
Decembr. 1689, coram

Mary Young.

Thom. Marshall.  
Will. Marshall.

*THE*se are true Copies of the Informations taken upm Oath at the City of Lichfield, before the Justices of the Peace of the said City, against Robert Young, the Day and Year aforesaid; which Original Informations remain in the Custody of me,

5 Octob. 1692.

R. Wakefield

Town Clerk of the said City

*THE* aforementioned Robert Young and his Wife, being in the Custody of the Sheriff of the City and County of Lichfield, were delivered to a Messenger especially sent for them, in Obedience to a Warrant under the Hand and Seal of the Right Honourable Charles Earl of Shrewsbury, Waterford and Wexford, then Principal Secretary of State. Bearing Date the 16th Day of December, 1689, by the then Sheriff of the said City, about the 20th of the said Month.

Witness my Hand, the 5th of October, 1692.

R. Wakefield.

Town-Clerk of Lichfield.

Seventhly, The Information of James Young, of the City of Lichfield, Vintner,

*THE* said Informant maketh Oath, that he knows Mr. Robert Young Clerk, now present, and Mary Young now present, and that he believes her to be the said Mr. Robert Young's Wife, and hath known them live at Wapping



ping a quarter of a Year together, and Dine together, and Lye together ; and that they formerly Lived together in Dublin ; and that she had two Children by him there, and he owned her his Wife, and the Children to be his ; and that since he came over to England, this Deponent lived with them in Wapping a quarter of a year ; and that the said Mr. Robert Young frequented the Post-House in St. Albans, and that he courted the Post-Masters Daughter ; and that he hath heard him say, the Ostler at the said Post-House (called John) brought him up the Bags out of the Pacquet, and he opened and took what Letters he pleased, and hath sent this Deponent (being then his Servant, to receive Monies upon Bills of Exchange that he had fetch'd from St. Albans) namely 14 l. 5 s. from a Cheesmonger near the Cock in Alderigate-Street, London, and allowed 5 s. for the speedy Payment of it ; and 20 l. from a Man at the Sword and Helmet in the Strand) by another Bill intercepted by Mr. Young as aforesaid ; which Bill this Deponent received by the said Mr. Young's Order, and delivered the Sum of 20 l. thereof to him. But this Deponent having not delivered the 14 l. 5 s. to the said Mr. Young, he searched this Deponent, and the said Deponent hid nine Guinea's, but never could find it since, and for that this Deponent would not go to London upon a Message to the said Mrs. Young, to bring her down into the Country, and Hang or Drown her coming down, for which he offered this Deponent 6 l. The said Mr. Young, near Cannost Wood, or Weeford Park, charged a Gun, and attempted to shoot this Deponent ; but the Gun not going off upon twice Cocking, and his own Horse starting at the Snapping of the Gun, this Deponent wrested it from his Hand, and rode away with it, till he came to Lichfield, and then discharged it, and carried it home to the Talbot in Lichfield.

Capt. & Jurat. apud Civit. Lichfield,  
9<sup>o</sup> Die Decembr, 1689, coram

James Young.

Thom. Marshall.  
Will. Marshall.

Eighthly, The further Examination and Information of *James Young* ; taken at *Lichfield* aforesaid, the 14th Day of December, 1689.

*THE* said James Young confesseth, that he hath heard the aforementioned Mr. Robert Young (during the time that he lived with the said Robert Young) confess that the aforementioned Mary Young had received  
above

above 500 l. for him in London within a Twelve-Month, by Bills of Exchange, forged, and surreptitiously obtained by him, namely, 200 l. from Mr. Ship-ton, and 150 l. from some other Persons, whose Names this Examinee hath now forgot; and that he received 30 l. himself from a Shopkeeper, and several other Sums of Money, which this Informant hath now forgot; and that he blamed this Examinee for not receiving two other Bills, which the said Robert Young would have had this Informant to have gone with, and demanded, and to have received. And then boasted, that he had himself received the 30 l. abovementioned, and that he had given the Post-Mistress's Son of St. Albans 50 l. by several times, to let him be Privy to the Post-Bags and Pacquet, and that he had made use of them on these like Occasions all this last Summer, and that he went by the Name of Robert Kendall in St. Albans, and used to be there sometimes a Week, sometimes a Fort-night together, though his Habitation was at Wapping. And says, That when this Informant refused to go with the Bills, as abovementioned, the said Robert Young called him Fool, and told him, if he were apprehended, it was but standing in the Pillory an Hour or two; and that it was nothing, he had stood in the Pillory himself, and had been imprisoned and laid in Bolts at Suffolk for a considerable time.

Taken at Lichfield the 14th Day of  
December, 1689, before

James Young.

Thom. Marshall.

*These are true Copies of the Informations taken at the City of Lichfield, before the Justices of Peace of the said City, against Robert Young, the Day and Year abovesaid; which Original Informations remain in the Custody of*

R. Wakefield.

5 Octobr. 1692.

Town Clerk of the said City.

Ninthly, The true and the false Bills of Exchange, and false Letters of Advice, by which the several Forgeries upon Mr. Clarke, Mr. Mathew, and Mr. Olds were transacted.

First, The forged Bill to Mr. *Kendal*, to pay  
*Robert Young* 20 l. under the Name of *Robert*  
*Smith*.

Northampton, 10 July, 1688.

*Mr. Kendall* pray pay one Thirsday next the Sum of twenty  
Pounds to Mr. John Philips or order for the use of }  
*Mr. Robert Smith* for like Valew bear receivd and please to } 20.-00.-00.  
accounte of your reall Friend

John Clarke.

This to Mr. *Jonathan Kendall*,  
at the 3 Pigens in Milke-  
Street, London.

### The Indorsement.

Received the 16th of July 1688 the full Contents of } 20l.-00s.-00d.  
this Bill, being Twenty pounds, I say received }  
Per Rob. Smith.

Secondly, The true Bill of Mr. *Clarke* to  
Mr. *Kendall* for the same Sum, upon  
which the first was Forg'd.

Northampton, July 10th, 1688.

*Mr. Kendall* pray pay one Thirsday next the Sum of  
twenty Pounds to Mr. John Philips or order for }  
the use of Mr. Robert Smith for like vallew bear receivd } 20l.-00s.-00d.  
and please to accounte of your reall Friend

John Clarke.

This for Mr. *Jonathan Kendall*  
at the 3 Pigens in Milke-  
Street, London.

The



The Indorsement.

July 17, 1688.

**P**Aid Mr. Robert Smith the Twenty Pounds back again at Northampton,

John Clarke.

Thirdly, The Forg'd Bill from Mr. Clarke to Mr. Kendall, for 150 l. which Mary Young receiv'd under the name of Mary Clarke.

Northampton the 5th of Octob. 1688.

**M**r. Kendall I pray you pay one Tuesday next to Mrs. Mary Clarke the Sume of One hundred and Fifty Pounds for like vallew bear receiv'd and place to the account of your reall Freind. } 150l.-00s.-00d.

John Clarke.

To Mr. Jonathan Kendall at the 3. Pigens in Milke-street, London.

The Indorsement.

**R**Received the 9th of Octob. 1688. the full Contents of this Bill being One hundred and Fifty Pounds, } 150l.-00s.-00d.  
say received.

The Mark of  
Mary ||| Clarke.

Fourthly, The Forg'd Letter of advice from Mr. Clarke to Mr. Kendall, where notice of 150 l. Bill is inserted.

Mr. Kendall,

**I** Am not a littel trubled to hear Mr. Ridly has not paid you as yet any Moneys; pray if you have not yet herd from him, send by the said Post, and if that will not doe, pray let sume person attend the concern, and what

it costs charg to account. Pray also pres for the Bill of 51. lent Sr Symon—  
also the Bill last sent of Mr. Willames for 41. 8s. I hope all will suddenly  
be paid, the Bill of 201. dew to Will. Oldam as I sent last Munday, is  
promised to be broyt to your Shop in a littel time. I pray you send 3 or 4  
lines under ritt to Marchant Porter, if the Bill is not accepted; but my  
Freind gives me all assurance it will be paid at the time. My Lord is a  
very sweet Youth to take up 401. of me in such sort, and now to deall so  
by me; he owes me at lest 1501. and promised I should have part of that  
suddenly, and now to serve me thus I take it ill from him, but I will right  
to him, and I pray you send me down that Note he gave me: if my Old  
Lord should know he should deal so by me, he would be very angry. [I  
have given a Bill to Mrs. Clarke for 1501. to be paid at sight; I intreat  
you to pay when she comes for it.] Also I have given a Bill to Mr. Bate-  
man for 401. to be paid Alderman Maussion in 6 days after sight, also a  
Bill for 251. to one Mr. Ray in a day or two after, or at sight. I am your  
reall Freind

John Clarke.

This for Mr. Jonathan Kendall,  
at the three Pigen in Milke-  
street, London.

Northampton. 7th of Octob. 1688.

Sir this is to desire you to send a Letter next Post to Mr. Swan at Har-  
son in Essecks 5 miles from Braintery of whom I had the Bill of 1001.  
payable the 14th instant to Mr. Kendall for use of Mr. John Whittorne,  
for if you should fail. my Freind Mr. Kendall of the Moneyes about that  
time, it might be a great prejudish to me. Sir, I am your Freind and  
Sarvant,

John Clarke.

This for Marchant Porter.

Next follows the Cheat upon Mr. Ma-  
thew and Mr. Shipton, in the same order.

First, A true Bill from Mr. Mathew to Mr.  
Shipton, to pay Mary Young 91.

Mr.

Mr. Shipton, Februar 21. 88.  
*Paye at sight of this my Bill to Mrs. Marey Young, or to her Affines Nine*  
*Pounds for the same Summ receivd at the Wheat Sheaf at Dentry,*  
 ley Your Freind and Sarvant  
Jonathan Mathew.  
 At the 7 Stares in Fryday-street ; This.

### The Indorsement.

*R*eceivd the 4th of March 1688, Nine Pounds in full } 09l. 00s. 00d.  
 of this Bill. per Mary Young.

Secondly, The Forged Bill for 200 l. payable to *Mary Young.*

Mr. Shipton, March 18. 1688.  
*Paye at sight of this my Bill to Mrs. Marey Young, or to her Affines 200 l.*  
*for the same Summ receivd of her at the Wheat Sheafe at Dentry, ly*  
Your Freind and Sarvant  
 At the 7 Stares in Friday-street, This. Jonathan Mathew.

### The Indorsement.

*R*eceiv'd the 21th of March 1688, Two Hundred } 200l. 00s. 00d.  
 Pound in full of this Bill. per Mary Young.

Thirdly, The Forg'd Letter of Advice, in which notice of the 200 l. is Inserted.

Sir,  
*I Have drawne a Bill on you to pay Mr. Sam. Bird, or Order, 30 l. [and a*  
*Bill likewise on you to pay Mrs. Mary Young 200 l. which pray pay*  
*her on Demand.] Mr. Woodward will pay you 200 l. at least this Week or*  
*the next following. Mr. Compion for Dev Wall 100 and od Pounds for*  
Your humble Sarvant

Daintry, 9 March 1688.

Benj. Mathew.

To Mr. Richard Shipton at the 7 Stares  
 in Friday-street, London.

Fourthly,



Fourthly, A true Letter of Mr. Mathew,  
in the Postscript whereof Forg'd, notice is  
given of the 200 l. Bill.

Sir,

**B**E Pleased to pay to William Peytue Esq; or Order, 66 l. and place  
7 l. 10 s. to Account of Thomas Lucas that I have received of him  
for your use ; who am,

I hope you have paid

Your humble Servant

Mrs. Mary Young 200 l.

and Mr. Sam. Bird 30 l.

Benj. Mathew.

Daintrey, March 21. 1688.

Fifthly, Mr. Mathew's Letter to Mr. Shipton  
upon notice of the Cheat.

Mr. Shipton,

**I** Have just now Received a Letter from you, wherein you say you have paid  
200 l. to Mary Young. I never Receiv'd any such Summ, nor drew any  
such Bill, therefore have sent Tom away Post to let you know it, that if  
possible you might retrieve it ;

Your Servant

Benj. Mathew.

My Father saith he never drew any such Bill, and Tom will satisfie you  
he hath not.

Daintrey, 8 of the Clock Friday night.

Sixthly, Mary Young's Letter to Mr. Mathew  
after she had Cheated him of 200 l.

Sir,

**T**HIS is to give you Notice, That I have Borrowed on your Credit from  
Mr. Shipton 200 Ponds, and when I am able I will pay you again :  
The way I got your Letter out of the Post-Office in London, was by Feeing  
one of the Men that carried the Letters about ; And by that Letter of Ad-  
vice

idea I procur'd another to be write, so that you need not trouble your self any more & I rest.

M. Young alias Brown, alias Stewart,  
alias Forbus, alias Boner, &c.

For Mr. Jonathan Mathew at Daintrey near Coventary.  
These at the Wheat Sheafe.

Lastly, Here are the Cheats upon Mr. Olds and Mr. Billers, all but the Bill of 20 l. which I have not seen.

First, The Forg'd Bill of 100 l. from Mr. Olds to Mr. Billers, June 12. 1683. whercof Robert Young only got 10 l.

Brother Billers, Coventry, June 12, 1683.  
AT sight of my Bill, bearing date June 12, be pleased to pay unto Mr. Robert Young, the Sume of a Hundred Pounds, which I have receiv'd from him: I have nothing els at present, but this Letter of Advice from him, who is

To Mr. Billers, at the 3 Kings  
in Cheapside, London.

Your Loving Brother  
and Servant,  
Joseph Olds.

June 13th, 1683.

Received from Mr. John Billers the Sume of ten Pounds. Sir, I sh<sup>d</sup> received by me,

Rob. Young.

Secondly, A true Bill of Samuel Croxal, upon Joseph Young, to John Billers, for use of Mr. Olds, for 14 l. 10 s. Aug. 5, 1689. But received by Robert Young's Man, upon account of a forged Indorsement.

T

Friend

Friend Joseph Young,

The 5th of Aug. 1689.

**A**T site of this my Bill, or ten days after, I pray pay to John Billers, or order the Summe of fourteen Pounds ten Shillings, for the use of Joseph Olds: make good Payment, and please it to the Accompt of thy Friend,

At Longlane end, in Aldersgate-  
Streete, London.

Sam. Croxall.

Indorsed thus.

**P**Ray pay to my Man James Moorten the within Bill. As witness my  
Hand Aug. 14th 1689.

John Billers.

**R**Received the 14th August 89, fourteen Pounds ten Shillings, being the  
full Contents of this Bill for my Mr. John Billers. 14-10-00

Per James Morton.

Thirdly, A true Bill of Mr. Olds for  
10 l. to Mr. Billers. Feb. 21, 88, for Sarah  
Harris.

For 10-00-00 Coventry 21 Feb. 1688.

**A**T sight pray pay unto Mrs. Sarah Harris the Summe of ten Pounds value  
received of her as per Advice from

To Mr. John and Benj. Billers,  
at the 3 Kings in Cheapside  
London.

Your loving Brother  
and Servant,

Joseph Olds.

The Indorsement.

**R**Received February 28th 1688 ten Pounds in full of this Bill.

Per Sarah S-H Harris.

Her Mark.

Fourthly,



Fourthly, A False Bill for 200 l. from Mr. Olds, Aug. 10, 1689, by which Sarah Harris, alias Mary Young was discovered.

For 200-00-00, Coventry 10th Aug. 1689.

*At sight pray pay unto Mrs. Sarah Harris the Summe of two hundred Pounds value, received of her as per Advice from*

Your Loving Brother,  
and Servant,  
Joseph Olds.

Fifthly, A false Letter from Mr. Olds, wherein Advice of the 200 l. Bill is inserted. Aug. 11. 89.

Loving Brother,

*Yours of the 6th Instant received- and mind the Contents- my Dear Wife is but poorly- and much as was when at Coventry- She does continue using the Means went for- the Lord sanctify them for her Good- Pray accept and pay my 200 l. Bill at sight to Mrs. Sarah Harris, or order N<sup>o</sup> 78, value of her self. Mr. Warson does not as yet accept the 15 l. Bill- Says must first write to London, where has Money lays, and if can get it paid there, shall know next Week, with kind Respects and service to you and my Sister. Rest in some hast,*

*Yours, Joseph Olds*

For Mr. Benj. Billers, at the 3 Kings  
in Cheapside.

*Coventry, Aug. 11, 1689.*

Perhaps my Reader may wonder, why I have been so accurate in setting down at large all these True and Forg'd Bills of Exchange, and Letters of Advice. But the Reason is,

I have had, for some time, and have now at this present, all the Originals of them in my keeping: I have shewn them to very many Persons of great Sagacity, both of the Nobility and Clergy, both of Scholars and Merchants: And after an exact View and Comparison of them distinctly Line by Line, Word by Word, Letter by Letter, I must say, all that have seen them were strangely astonish'd at the surprizing Similitude between the False Writings and the True: And they have done *Robert Young* this Justice, as to pronounce them all to be great Master-pieces, of Forgery.

For my part, I will only add, That, since he could perform all this only with two Hands, how many Names soever he had; most certainly Wo would have been to all the Citizens and Traders of *England* by False Bills of Exchange; Wo to all the Noblemen, Bishops, and Gentlemen, by False Plots and Associations, if once *Robert Young* could have had his Wish, and been another *Briareus* with an Hundred Hands. Which, I assure my Reader, is no flight of mine, but his own, in his Letter from Bury to Archbishop Sancroft. Page 93.

My

My Reader having, by this Time, found that *Robert Young* had so often deserv'd *Newgate*, will now, I suppose, be glad to see him brought thither to his own home.

But first (according to the course of my Method,) I must shew, that he was sent for up from *Lichfield*, for Treasonable Practices against the Government; which was done by this following Warrant from the Earl of *Shrewsbury*.

*Charles Earl of Shrewsbury, Waterford, and Wexford, &c.*

One of the Lords of His Majesties Most Honourable Privy-Council, and Principal Secretary of State.

These are in His Majesties Name to Authorize and Require you (taking a Constable to your Assistance) to Search for, Seize, and Apprehend the Persons of *Robert Young*, *Mary Young*, and *James Young*, for Dangerous and Treasonable Practices against the Government, and them to bring before me, to answer to such Matters as shall on His Majesties behalf be Objected against them: And for so doing, this shall be your Warrant. And herein all Mayors, Justices of the Peace, Constables, and other His Majesties Officers Civil and Military, are to be Assisting to you. Given at the Court at Whitehall the 16th day of December, 1689.

To *Henry Legat*, one of the Messengers of His Majesties Chamber in Ordinary.

*Shrewsbury.*

*Robert Young,* } Left in Custody the 30th of December, 89.  
and  
*James Young,* } by Mr. Legat.

By



By Virtue of this Warrant we find Mr. Legat the Messenger brought Robert from the Gaol at *Lichfield*, to the Gate-house in *Westminster*; whither, as soon as he came to Town, he procured his Prisoner to be removed. For, being more cautious than some other Messengers since, he would not charge himself with the safe keeping of so dangerous a Guest, as he soon perceived him to be.

By the way, Mr. Legat himself has told me of one Passage, in their Journey up, which, I believe, my Reader will thank him for. It is, That *Robert Young* desired him to stop and call at a little Ale-house upon the Road, where they found a very old mean Fellow, who (as *Robert* declared,) was his Father; and, which is yet more strange, the old Fellow own'd him to be his Son.

And since that time, Mr. Legat, being in *Ireland*, met by chance the same old Man in the Streets of *Limrick*, after it was delivered up to the English. Whereupon, taking Acquaintance again with him; by Enquiry, he found that he went about in that Country, getting a poor Livelihood by professing himself to be a Fortune-Teller and a Conjuror. So that thus

thus far we have a pretty Account of Robert Young's Genealogy, down from the Duke of Lenox to the Irish Conjuror.

From the Gate-house (as I have already said,) he was removed by the Lord Chief Justices Order to *Newgate*: Where, if my Reader, and I my self, were not quite tired with him, I have plenty of Instances to prove that he was always the same. One I'll give:

During his being Prisoner there, whil'st none questioned but he was in Holy Orders, he Clandestinely Married a Fellow Gaol-Bird of his to a young Heiress. For which vile Fact, so esteem'd even in *Newgate*, being more severely treated than before, he wrote Captain *Richardson* a Letter under his own Hand, which I have seen; wherein he tries to excuse himself for so great a Crime, by an Argument that is somewhat singular, and may be reckon'd as one of his most *Ingenious Shifts*:

It is to this Sense, *Do not you* (says he,) *Noble Captain, allow any Artificer and Handicrafts Man, that you have here in Prison, to work at his own Trade, to keep himself from Starving?*  
And

And why then should I be denied to get Bread for me, and my Wife, by making use of My Function?

But, to return to that which is more pertinent to my purpose, in Newgate Robert and Mary were kept, till they were Try'd, and Condemn'd, for the Forgeries above-mention'd; as the Records here ensuing will shew, though I produce but one a piece for each of them, for Brevities sake.

London. ff. Deliber. Gaol. Domin. Regis & Regin. de Newgate tent pro civitat. London. apud Justice Hall in le Old Bayly, London. die Mercur. (scilicet) 3<sup>o</sup> decima die Januarij An. Regni Dom. nost. Will<sup>m</sup> & Mat. nunc Regis & Regin. Angliæ, &c. Primo.

For Cheating Mr. Kendall of 20l. by a Counterfeit Bill of Exchange, by him forged in the Name of Mr. Clark.

Robert Young, alias Smith, fin. Cent. & committitur, &c. & ponatur stare, in & sup. Pillor. uno die Cornhil prope Excambium London. & al. die in Cheapside, London. ab hora undecima ante merid. usq; hor. prim. post merid. in utroq; eorund. seperat. diem, cum Papir. Script. supra caput su. ostens. offens. ejus, & tunc reducatur ad Newgate in ea salu. Custod. quousq; fin. su. prædict. solverit.

For Cheating Mr. Shippen of 200l. by a Counterfeit Bill of Exchange, in the Name of Mr. Macheu.

Mary Young, fin. xx<sup>m</sup> & committitur, &c. & ponatur stare sup. sedile ante & prope Pillor. uno die in Cornhill prope Excambium London. & al. die in Cheapside London. ab hora undecima ante merid. usq; hor. prim. post merid. in utroq; eorund. seperat. diem, cum papir. script. supra Caput su. ostens. offens. ejus: & tunc reducatur ad Newgate in ea salu. Custod. quousq; fin. su. solverit.

Thus Robert Young and his Wife again pass their well-known Road of the Pillory. But being



being brought back to *Newgate* for want of paying their Fines; to enable them thereto, he fell at last upon this damnable Contrivance of an Association, as the Consummation of all his Villanies.

I have already told by what means he came to be so skilful in Archbishop *Sancroft's* Hand, and Mine; how he got a Pattern whereby to Forge my Lord *Cornbury's*, his Lordship cannot remember. But my Lord *Salisbury's*, and my Lord *Marleborough's* he obtain'd partly by the same Craft as he did mine: That is, By Writing, to my Lord *Marleborough* under his true Name of *Robert Young*; to my Lord *Salisbury* under the Name of *Robert Yates*, to inquire of the Character of some Servants they never had: To which False Letters they also unawares return'd True Answers, under their own Hands; which he thereupon Falsified.

In the same manner he procur'd Sir *Basil Firebrace's* Hand, by sending him a civil Letter, under the feign'd Name of *Robert Farner*, a Justice of Peace at *Marlow* in *Buckinghamshire*, and earnestly recommending to him a wild Son of his for an Apprentice; professing he would not stick at any Money, if Sir *Basil* would take him under his Care:

Withal Desiring an Answer from him under his Hand by the Bearer his Man ; which he had ; And thereupon Sir Basil was enter'd into the Association.

But lest my Reader should think that the single Framing of one Association was Employment enough in Matters of State, for so fertile a Brain, and so artificial a Hand as Robert Young's, during the whole two Years and four Months that he lay Prisoner in Newgate ; I have one Story more to tell of him, and then I shall have done : As indeed I well may ; for after this Association, and this other Story of the like nature I am going to relate, I think it may justly be concluded, That scarce ever any mortal Man has reached to a deeper pitch of Infernal Wickedness.

The Story is this. Shortly after my being cleared at *Whitehall*, I went to *Lambeth*, to visit my antient most honoured Friend, my Lord Archbishop of *Canterbury*, and to thank him for the very kind Offices he had done me at Court during my Affliction. That being over, I told him, I was going to my Lord *Nottingham*, to request that my two false Witnesses might be brought to Tryal, and undergo the

the Justice of the Government. His Grace encouraged me to do so, and, withal, bid me tell my Lord Nottingham, as from himself, this Story ; which I will set down, as near as I can remember, in his own Words. *Near six Months ago, about Christmas last, says my Lord Archbishop, I received a Letter from this, Robert Young out of Newgate, to let me know, There was a pernicious Plot going on against their Majesties, which was laid as deep as Hell ; and he had had the good Luck to discover it ; Desiring me speedily to acquaint the King with it. At first, the Information coming from such a Place, I took little notice of it. But he shortly after wrote me other Letters to the same purpose ; and at last, sent me Letters full of Treason, pretended to be written by some of the greatest Men in England. The Hands I did not know ; but then I thought it concerned me, as a Privy Councillor, to acquaint his Majesty with the whole Matter. I did so. The King read over Young's Letters to me, and those Treasonable Ones that he had sent me ; and then his Majesty very generously said, Really, My Lord, these Papers may resemble some of these Persons Hands ; but I do not in the least distrust them ; I am confident they are*



Innocent, and this is a Villany; and therefore I will not have them disturbed upon this Account. And so, said my Lord Archbishop, I carried home my Bundle of Intelligence again, and sealing the Papers, laid them up in my Closet, where they still remain; and I pray tell my Lord Nottingham, that when their Majesties shall command, I am ready to produce them, with the very Inscription I put upon them at that same time. **Letters and Papers from Robert Young, who is a very Rogue.**

And here indeed I had resolv'd to give the Rogue over. But when I was just concluding, there happen'd a New Discovery, relating still to my Share in this Business; so very remarkable, that I cannot, without manifest Injury to my Self, and my Reader, deprive him of the Knowledge of it: I mean, *Robert Young's* fresh Attempt to Suborn one *Holland*, in order to revive the Fallen Credit of his Forg'd Association.

I should be very loth, by what I am going to say, to Forestal, or Misreport the King's Evidence against him. But the Reality of this Gross Subornation having been Sworn to at *Hicks's-Hall*, where I my self was an Ear-Witness, as well as many Worthy Gen-

Gentlemen, and great Numbers of other Persons, I know not how it were possible for me to make a Secret of it, if I would. And the Story so much conducing to shew the extreme Madness and Implacable Rage of the Villain, when he was brought to his last Shifts, I think I have great Obligation upon me to make it publick.

Now the Evidence, in this Matter, consisting partly in the Discourse *Young* himself had with *Holland*, to draw him in to be a Perjur'd Witness in this Profligate Cause; and partly in the Instructions *Young* sent him in Writing to Swear by: I will set down, as near as I can, a very Brief, but Faithful Abstract of the Substance of both: It being to Both that *Holland* publickly took his Oath. And to the Truth of the Instructions, being Written in *Young's* own Hand, Mr. *Aaron Smith* also Swore at the same time; and unquestionably proved it, by comparing that Paper, with a whole Handful of Letters, he had received from *Young* himself out of *Newgate*.

It seems then, that during the long time of *Young's* being in *Newgate*, he became acquainted with one *Holland*, a Prisoner likewise there; *Young* for Forgery, *Holland* for Debt.

Some

Some time after *Blackhead* had Confess'd before the Lords of the Council, *Young* sent for this *Holland* to the Messengers House, where he lay confined: And knowing him to be very Poor, and thence judging, by himself, that he was the more likely to embrace any Wicked Design, broke the Business to him in this manner:

*Mr. Holland*, says he, *It is most certain there is a Hellish Plot against the Government: The Story, you may have heard, of the Association, is true to a Tittle: I should have clearly made it out, had not the Cowardly Rogue Blackhead forsaken me, being Brib'd by the Bishop of Rochester, and Frighted by some Great Men at Court, who are also themselves as deeply engaged in the Design. Now if you will come in to Assist me in the Proof of it, we shall be made for ever; I shall have a Thousand Pounds, (so the Lying Knave boasted,) and you shall have half of it. And I think, Mr. Holland, 500 l. will do no hurt to a Man in your Circumstances.*

*By my Faith, you say true, Mr. Young, reply'd Holland, such a Sum would come very seasonably to me at this time. But what Work am I to do for it?*



*It shall be only your part, answer'd Young, to Swear that you saw the Earl of Salisbury, the Earl of Marleborough, and the Bishop of Rochester, Sign the Association.*

*But, said Holland, How can I make a probable Story of it? Seeing I never saw the Association, I know none of the three Lords you speak of, nor can I imagine where to fix the Place, or Time of Signing it, or any of the other Necessary Circumstances.*

*As for all that, said Young, I will send you Instructions, by my Wife, of the Particulars you are to Swear to. For, Mr. Holland, I would not have you come hither your self often to me. I have here divers Spyes upon me: And besides, This Damn'd Blackhead, who has Deserted me, lies just over Head in this same Messenger's House.*

*But as for the Association it self, I will now describe you the exact Shape of it. Then calling for a Sheet of Paper, he folded it into the same fashion: Only, says he, you must remember, That the Association is Written in great thick Paper.*

*Next, he repeated to him the Heads, and Principal Matter of it: Then shew'd him in what Order the Names were Subscrib'd.*

*Here*

*Here, says he, is the late Archbishop of Canterbury's Hand, uppermost towards the Right Side : Next under that, the Bishop of Rochester's : Under his, the Lord Cornbury's : Over against the Bishop of Rochester's to the Left, is first the Earl Salisbury's, then still to the Left, the Earl of Marleborough's, and so of the rest ; pointing to the place of every particular Name very expertly.*

I also well remember, That, in the Instructions, there was a List of several other Names, that were not in the Original Forg'd Association ; which, no doubt, were put in, towards the framing of more new False Associations ; as before I intimated, most certainly was his Intention, if this had gain'd Credit.

*But for the Persons, added Young, you must get a View of them as soon as you can. And (as far as I can recollect, all that follows was in his Paper of written Instructions) The Earl of Salisbury, when in Town, is at his House in the Strand ; when in the Country at Hatfield in Hertfordshire beyond Barnet. The Earl of Marleborough is so well known about Whitehal and St. James's, that you will easily find where he dwells. The Bishop of Rochester is to be seen either at his House at Bromley in Kent, or at Westminster, where he is Dean. And*

And as for the Place, and Time, and Company; You must Swear that you saw these three Lords, on such a day, (mentioning a particular day, which I have forgot) come to the Lobster Ale-house in Southwark: That they came in white Gambler Cloaks, with Crevats about their Necks: That the Signers, their Inquiring for the Number THREE: That then they were conducted up Stairs into a Back-Room: And there, in the Presence of You, and Me, and Captain Lawe, (I think also he nam'd one or two more) they Sign'd the Association: Then, delivering it to Captain Lawe, they said, Captain, We pray, make haste about to get this Paper speedily Subscrib'd by the rest, who, you know, are concern'd; And that then these three Lords threw down their Twelve Pence apiece, and so went their ways.

I know my Reader, upon sight of all this strange Stuff, cannot forbear smiling: Which perhaps it is not decent for me to make him do, so near the end of this Tragedy.

But it is none of my fault: I only, as near as I am able, relate the simple Truths. Most certainly it was sworn that Holland Communicated all this to the Secretary of State: And being Examin'd by some Lords of the Coun-



cil, affirm'd it all upon Oath : And I am sure that upon Oath also he repeated it all, before the Justices of the Sessions, and the Grand Jury of *Middlesex*, on the Day that the Bill of Forgery and Subornation of Perjury was found against *Blackhead* and *Young*. And besides, that, which to me confirms the Truth of *Holland's* Testimony beyond Contradiction, is, That every Word of the Instructions was undeniably Written by *Young's* own Hand ; which, by this time, I hope my Reader will take me to be a Competent Judge of.

For since I begun my Knowledge of him, on the Thirteenth of *June* last, I have seen so very many Papers of his own Hand-writing, (I mean his True Hand, not his False) that now I may presume to say, I think my self as well skill'd in Knowing His Hand, as he is in Counterfeiting Mine.

I cannot therefore see how he can possibly be excused from ridiculous Folly, as well as shameless Subornation in this last so very subtil an Intrigue.

I must therefore, upon this Occasion, crave his Leave to apply one certain General Observation to *Robert Young* in particular, *That*  
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*there was never yet a very great Knave, but he proved, sometime or other, as great a Fool.*

I have now, in good earnest, done with *Robert Young*. But when I reflect on what I have been doing all this while, I am almost out of Countenance at it. It vexes me, That whilst my happy Deliverance might have suggested to me so many better and more useful Thoughts, both in regard to the Publick, and my own Private Part in it, I should be so long diverted another way, to follow this Impious Wretch, through one Kingdom to another, from Gaol to Gaol, from Pillory to Pillory.

Nor could I have submitted to so mean a Task, had not some Good and Great Men thought it necessary, not so much for my own Vindication, much less for my own Revenge, the thoughts of which are far below me as a Christian, and a Bishop; as for the Security of other Innocent Persons: and that this might be some Warning to my Country, in time to come, against the like Wicked Forgeries, Subornations, and False Plots.

It is indeed somewhat strange, that when the Laws of *England* are so Watchful, and Jealous (perhaps more than the Laws of any other Kingdom) in Defending the Liberties and Properties of the Subject, from all Injustice, Fraud, and Oppression; yet they may seem not to have been equally Careful, not so much as the Laws of most of our Neighbouring Nations, in providing severely enough against that worst sort of Perjury, which reaches to the taking away of Mens Lives.

For my part, I can Assign no other Reason of this Defect, but the same for which the *Romans* had for some Ages no Laws against Parricides; that is, That the Ancient Simplicity and Generosity of the *English* Nation did never imagine, any *English* Men could possibly be Guilty of such Diabolical Wickedness, as to turn Accusers for the Sake of Accusing, and in Cold Blood, by Perjury, to Destroy Innocent Men, to whom they were utter Strangers, and who had never in the least provok'd them.

I am inclined to believe, That this was the Cause why our Country has been hitherto Deficient in Laws of this kind, at least since the Conquest. But



But if we consider the different Degrees of the Offences themselves, How can it possibly be thought a Crime of the same Magnitude, to Swear a Man Falsely out of a part, (a small part perhaps) of his Goods and Estate, as to Swear him Falsely out of his Life, his Honour, his very Name, as well as his whole Estate, as in the Case of High Treason? Yet, by all our Laws now in Being (if I am not misinform'd) the Penalties of these greatest of Perjuries, are not much heavier than those which are inflicted for the least.

And what Temptation must this be to For swearers, in Matters of State especially, when the Reward is like to be considerable, if they carry their Point so far as to have their False Plots believ'd to be Real; and on the other Hand, the Penalties cannot by Law be very grievous, should they be detected of Swearing to Plots most Impudently False? Especially considering, that such Infamous Persons, knowing they are safe from extraordinary Punishment, particularly from Punishment by Death, have usually no great Dread of the Shame, or Pain of the Ordinary Ones, such as Pillorying and the like; as having perhaps

perhaps been often inured to them before.

To prove what I say, I need alledge no other Example but this of *Robert Young*. My Reader finds he has stood in the Pillory more than once for several Petty Forgeries: Petty I call them only in comparison to this. And what a mighty Business were it now, if for Contriving the Final Ruin of so many Guiltless Persons, and their Posterity, by the Basest Means, *Robert Young* should be adjudg'd once more to stand in the Pillory?

Or what would it have avail'd Me, or my Family, in this World at least, should I have Died, as Guilty of Treason, by this Villain's False Testimony, if afterwards, upon the Detection of his Perjury (as I am persuaded God would not have suffered so Horrid a Villany to prosper, or remain long undiscover'd,) I say, what great Comfort or Compensation had it been to my Family, and my Friends, if, after my unjust Execution, they had heard that the wicked Author of it had stood once more in the Pillory, and perhaps lost the Tip of his Ear?

Wherefore may it not well become the Prudence of our Lawgivers, upon Occasion  
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of so Notorious an Instance, together with some others within our Memories, to Review, once for all, the Laws now in force against Forgery and Perjury? And then to adjust the distinct Punishments a little more proportionably to the different Guilt, and the several Degrees of these Crimes; for the future, I mean: God forbid I should propose, that any such Law should have a Retrospect, even upon *Blackhead* or *Young*.

But I presume to urge this the rather at this time, because of the common Saying, *That Ill Manners make Good Laws*: that is, (as I understand the Proverb,) They render the making of them to be necessary. And if this be true, perhaps there was never yet any one Age since the *English* were a Nation, when the Ill Manners of False Witnesses, their frequent Subornations, Perjuries, and Forgeries, have more deserv'd to be Restrain'd by some Good New Laws, than this very Age wherein we live.

I could heartily wish so great a Benefit might accrue to the Publick by the happy Discovery of this inhuman Design; so as to deter ill Men from attempting any more such. Then I should think my own Troubles more

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than enough Recompenc'd : I should even rejoyce in the extreme Peril, to which I my self was thereby Expo'sd.

But however that shall happen, I am sure, there is another Use of this Signal Providence, which by God's Grace it is in my own Power to make ; and if I do not, I ought to be esteem'd as the most Ungrateful of Men to the Heavenly Goodness : that is, if I do not render it the Chief Business of my whole Life, to return some suitable Thanks to Heaven for it.

I hope I may say without Vanity, That perhaps it is hard to meet in some whole Ages, with many Examples wherein the Divine Favour has snatch'd any private Person out of such imminent Danger, with a more visible Hand, than it has done me out of this.

Why may I not be allowed, in all Humility to say thus much? since it is so manifest, That the Destruction or Preservation of Me and Mine did depend upon the Clerk of the Council's turning to the Right Hand, or to the Left, when he enter'd to search my House at *Bromley*.

By God's Mercy and Direction, he turn'd to the Left. There examin'd all Places so curiously

riously, as to pass by no Corner unobserv'd yet he found nothing on that side worthy the Observation of one that came on such an Errand.

Whereas had he chanc'd to turn, Chanc'd do I say? I cannot believe that any thing fell out by Chance in this whole Business: but had God permitted him to turn on the Right Hand, the first Room he had enter'd, was that very Parlour, wherein was deposited the Fatal Instrument of my Death. Nor could he have miss'd it, but must have immediately lighted upon it, considering the punctual Instructions he had receiv'd to search all the Chimneys, and the Flower-Pots in them.

And had he once found it, the Writing it self, so nearly resembling my own Hand, and taken in my Dwelling House, had soon overwhelm'd me with supposed Guilt, without any farther need of *Blackhead's* or *Youngs'* Assistance.

For in so great a Surprise, and Consciousness of my own Innocency, Whom had I to Accuse or Suspect, but only Mr. *Dyve* and Mr. *Knight* themselves, for having put the Association

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into the same Flower-Pot, whence I had seen them take it out? And this indeed had been another Aggravation of my Misfortune, That I should have been forc'd to impute so vile a Treachery to Persons as Innocent in this, as I my self was in the Association.

Moreover, let my Reader but recollect the particular Time when all this happen'd, and Indeed mention no other Proof, or Circumstance, of the marvellous Greatness of my Danger, and Escape.

It was in the beginning of May last, a Time, when perhaps there was as great a Consternation, both in Town and Country, as was ever known in *England*: The *English* Fleet was scarce yet out of the River; the *Dutch* for the most part at Home; the *French* in the Mouth of the Channel, and only kept back by contrary Winds; a terrible Invasion hourly expected from *France*; the Army beyond Sea, that should have defend- ed us; a real Plot and Confederacy by many whisper'd about; by the Common People believ'd; many Persons of great Quality im- prison'd upon that Suspicion; all Mens Minds prepar'd to hear of some sudden Ri- sing, or Discovery.

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In such a Critical Time of Publick Terror and Distraction, How very little Evidence would have suffic'd to Ruine any Man, that had been Accus'd with the least probability of Truth? And how then had it been possible for me to have stood the Torrent of Common Fame and Passion against so great a Notoriety of Fact, had that Paper of a Pretended Association been really found in my House?

What Tumult and Rage had been on all sides of me upon such a Discovery! How fitly had such a Story served to inflame the generality of Men against me! How long a time must it have been, before the still Voice of Innocency could be heard!

Would it not have been said, *Can he deny it to be his own Hand?* Are not the Hands of the rest well known? Was it not found in his House? In so secret a place there? Who could have laid it there but himself? This certainly had been the Universal Clamour.

But above all, What a Mischievous Advantage had this given to the Enemies of the Church of *England*, to insult and triumph over it, on my Account? And that in Truth had more sensibly and deeply wounded me, than

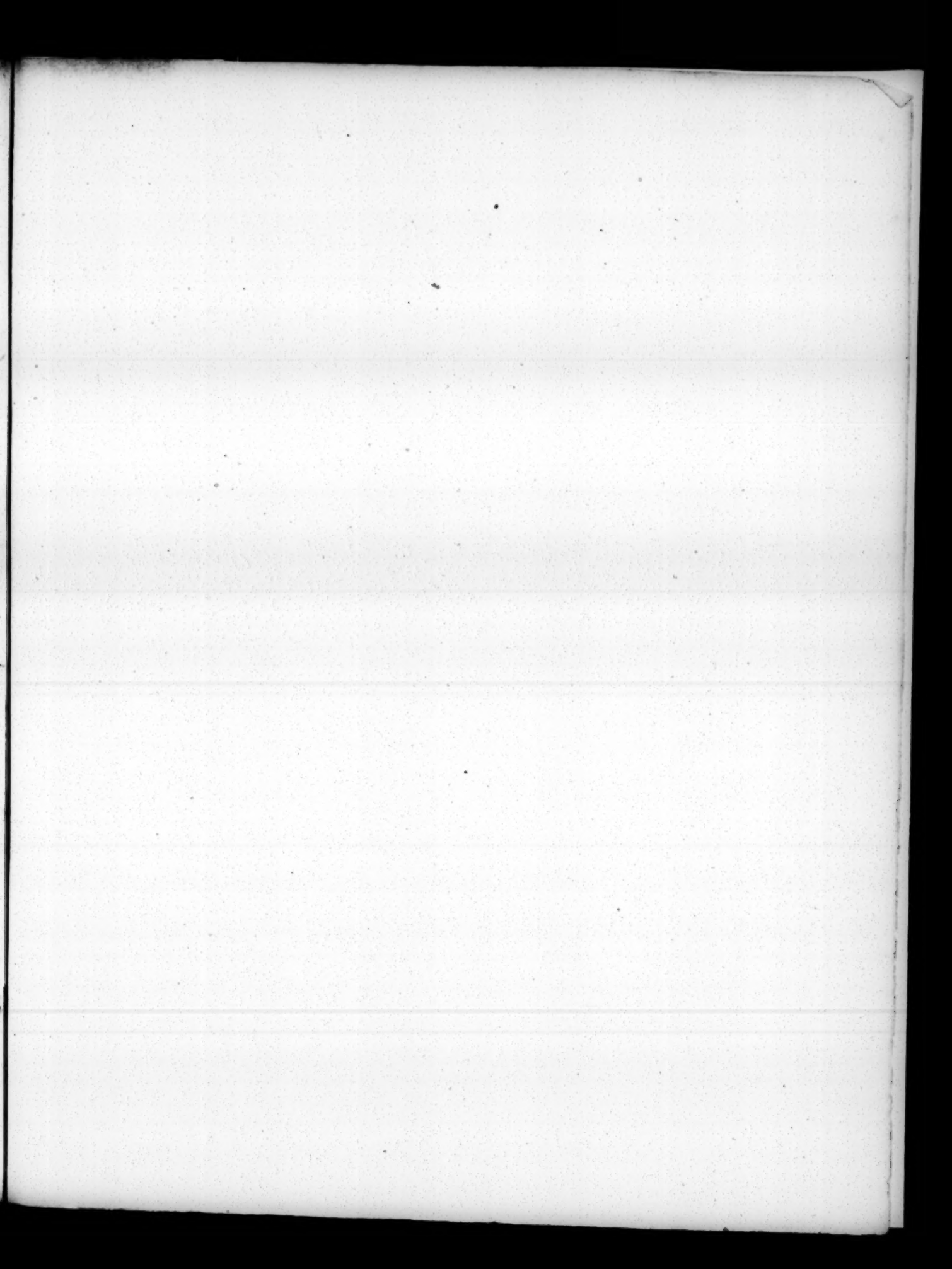
than any thing else which could have befallen my Self.

But God prevented all this, by covering ( if I may so say ) the *Hand-Writing* against me in my Chimney, as long as the finding of it there might have been to my Destruction; and then by suffering my Accusers to fetch it thence, and produce it in such a time, and in such a way, as could only tend to their own Confusion.

To GOD therefore my only Deliverer be the Praise. And as I doubt not but all Good and Innocent Men, for the common sake of Innocency vindicated, will receive this Account of my Deliverance with Kindness and Good Will; so I do most solemnly oblige my Self, and all Mine, to keep the grateful Remembrance of it Perpetual and Sacred.

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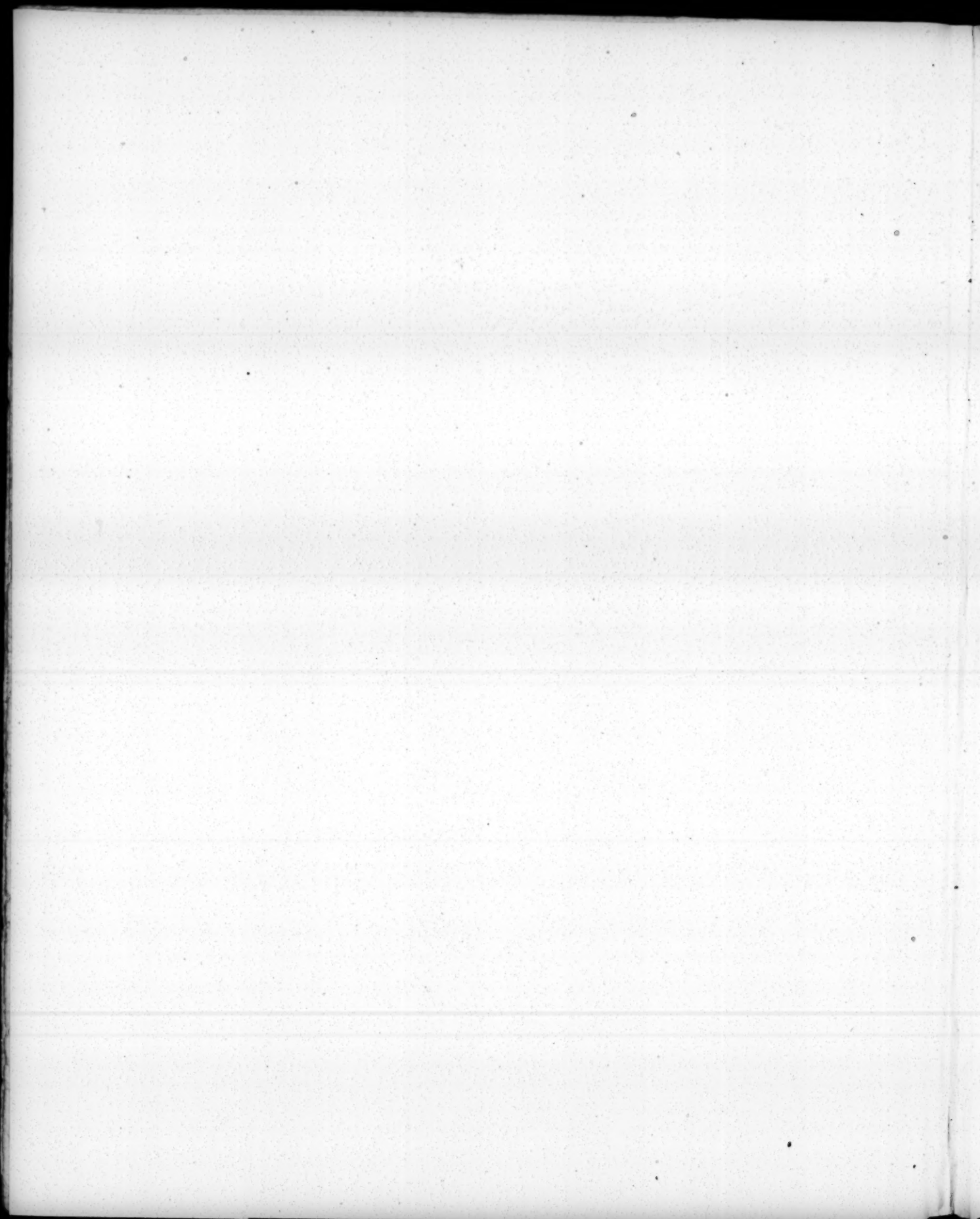




[Sprat, Thomas]

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